

EX# 54
Rec 7/15/25
RECEIVED

To: Members of the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission, Ledyard CT

July 15 2025

Dear Commissioners:

JUL 15 2025

Land Use Department

Again, we all thank you for the time and effort you faithfully spend on behalf of our town, especially in some of these difficult matters.

I spoke with you in April of this year, sharing concerns of 34 residents of Harvard Terrace about threats to our beloved neighborhood and Cranberry Pond, into which Pine Swamp Brook and the wetlands from Sweet Hill Farm flow. I shared two main areas of our concerns: flooding and pollution. I will not revisit the details, which are in Exhibit #24.

Regarding recent discussion about the test holes which have not yet been dug, I would like to share two pictures with you, one taken in April and one taken this morning. The pictures show the drastic difference in water levels, and they are a reminder that the time of year when test holes are dug can present a major difference in the water table. I doubt very much that the ground, whatever soils are discovered, would be able to absorb an extra 53,000 gallons per day (per Richard Ross, epiccleantec, July 9), especially during a rainy season.

We have watched water levels rise and fall since we purchased our home in 1969, occasionally seeing it flood the road, as I spoke of in April. But what I decided to share with you this evening is on a more personal level, relating to pollution concerns. We have a shallow, dug well, which is between the pond and our house. It is essentially water from the pond, filtered through 50' of glacial sand. We had our water tested in 2022, after a whole house water filter was installed. The results showed even then that the sample exceeded limits for Maximum Contaminant Levels, so we have had another, specialized filter installed to take the nitrates out of our drinking water.

I don't think I need to exaggerate our obvious worry about additional nitrates in the proposed wastewater discharge--draining into the soils where the wetlands are, feeding into Cranberry Pond, and eventually into our well and others downstream. In April I spoke about development and pollution potentially degrading essential wildlife and fish habitats, but this project is a major concern for human health as well.

I personally ask you to please remember the threats to humans by inappropriate and dangerous developments. Thank you.

Mary Brown Larson (Mobby)
53 Harvard Terrace
Gales Ferry CT 06335



From Cranberry Pond looking north to Sweet Hill Farm wetlands over spit of land at Avalonia border. On left showing low water levels, taken July 15 2025. Above showing spring flooding taken April 12 2025

RESULTS OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY (19-13B101)**SAMPLE #0772-8**

CLIENT	Mary B. Larson	TYPE OF SAMPLE	Grab - Tap, Treated
BILLING ADDRESS	53 Harvard Terr.		
	Gales Ferry, CT 06335		
OWNER OF SUPPLY	David & Mary Larson		
LOCATION OF SUPPLY	53 Harvard Terr.		
	Gales Ferry, CT 06335		
DATE AND TIME OF SAMPLING	3/18/22 9:15am		
PERSON OBTAINING SAMPLE	Mary B. Larson		

PARAMETER(S)	RESULTS	Max. Contaminant Level Allowed	Method	Detection Limit
COLIFORM & SANITARY				
CHEMICALS				
Coliform Bacteria, M.F.	Present 13*	col/100 ml	None Present	
Residual Chlorine	ND	mg / l	Absent	
Escherichia coli	Absent	col/100 ml	None Present	
Nitrite-N	0.01	mg / l	1.0 mg / l	
Nitrate-N	13.2*	mg / l	10.0 mg / l	
Chloride	38	mg / l	250 mg / l	

☐ Test Results of this sample meet the current limits for Maximum Contaminant Levels, for the parameters performed.☒ Test Results of this sample exceed the current limits for the Maximum Contaminant Levels, for the parameters performed.
Maximum Contaminant Levels exceeded are indicated by an (*).

Other Recommended Levels					
PHYSICAL TESTS					
Color, Apparent	2	Units	15 Standard Units	SM2120B	1
Odor	0	Units	2	SM2150B	0
Turbidity	0.20	Units	5 (NTU)	SM2130B	0.05
pH	5.2**	Units	6.4 - 10.0 range	SM4500B	0.1
INORGANIC TESTS					
Hardness (CaCO ₃)	18	mg / l	200 mg / l	SM2340B	5
Iron	0.06	mg / l	0.30 mg / l	SM3111B	0.01
Manganese	0.17**	mg / l	0.05 mg / l	SM3111B	0.01
Sodium	28	mg / l	100 mg / l (Guidance Level)	SM3111B	2
Sulfate		mg / l	250 mg / l	EPA375.4	2
Ammonia Nitrogen		mg / l		SM4500C	0.006
Copper		mg / l	1.3 mg / l (Advisory Level)	SM3111B	0.02
Fluoride		mg / l	4.0 mg / l	SM4500B	0.1
Lead		mg / l	0.015 mg / l (Advisory Level)	PH0618/E200.9	0.0010
MBAS (Surfactants)		mg / l	0.5 mg / l	SM5540C	0.02
Total Dissolved Solids		mg / l	1000 mg / l	EPA160.1	10
ORGANICS					
Volatile Compounds		mg / l		EPA524.2	0.0005

ND = None Detected

** Test Results Exceed Other Levels Recommended By CT or Local Health Departments.

David M. Kirpas

Date 3/21/22