

Roxanne Maher

From: Anne Roberts-Pierson <ar-pierson@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 10:49 AM
To: Town Council Group
Subject: Loftus Wellfield
Attachments: Water Supplu Plan2016.jpg; WaterSupplyEx2.jpg; Ledyard Aquifers map.jpg

Dear Ledyard Town Council,

At the Regular Meeting of the Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee on July 6, 2026 there was an item under New Business concerning the town-owned Loftus Wellfield property and a proposal to sell it to a private citizen. The committee's vote to move the issue to the whole Town Council passed 2 to 1 but I see that the Town Council as a whole did not move it forward at their next mtg about which I am very pleased.

Nonetheless, on July 6, during the Residents & Property Owners Comments section of Land Use mtg, several members of our community including myself, spoke out with many questions and concerns regarding this proposal.

My take on the question was and is that the Loftus Wellfield aquifer is a crucial, precious, and **priceless** clean drinking water resource for the Town of Ledyard, a very, very valuable natural commodity, particularly in light of climate change, global warming, and sea level rise. While the Loftus Wellfield aquifer no longer serves the Highlands as it once did (Groton Utilities reservoir system now replacing it), redundancy in water supplies to a community is always a good idea. This topic is now front and center not only locally but nationally and globally.

Emergencies and catastrophes happen and backup plans should always be in place. Just this week in the national news, potential cyberattacks on drinking water supplies made headlines. Disruption of water supplies is a real threat and remembering that Groton is the Submarine Capital of the World could easily, in my mind, make it and its water supply quite a target.

Therefore, my position is and was that Ledyard should NEVER sell Loftus Wellfield to a private citizen but rather retain it for future use in a water supply emergency and as part of Ledyard's broader water management strategy to ensure sustainability.

Today, I reach out to say that since July 6, I have become aware of a document called the 2016 Ledyard Water Supply Plan, prepared by Groton Utilities for the CT Dept. of Public Health and CT DEEP. It is easily found on Town of Ledyard website.

Interestingly, it backs up my thoughts on the need for water supply redundancy and potential future water needs. It is a large 242 page report but on page 73 under Section IV. Alternative Sources of Supply it states that "*Consideration is being given to the premise that, even if abandoned, it may be prudent to maintain this site (Loftus) as an aquifer protection area, through permitting, for a future emergency supply source.*"

On page 87 under Section VIII, B. Future Protective Zones it states "*It will, however, endeavor to maintain the aquifer area and its protective zone around the decommissioned Loftus Wellfield in the event of a need for a future alternate supply area.*"

I attach these 2 pages to this email along with 2 maps depicting Ledyard's 2 Aquifer Protections Areas (CT DEEP April 2026) and CT Aquifer Protection Areas (CT DEEP April 2026).

I hope that you may find this information useful concerning the value of the town-owned Loftus Wellfield property.

Yours Sincerely,
Anne Roberts-Pierson
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860-464-8101

Section IV. Alternative Sources of Supply , Inactive and Emergency Sources

Route 12 interconnection corridors. Should the treatment plant be affected, a source of water would be the regional interconnections beneath the Thames River from the west and the Mystic / Aquarion connection to the east. Through these interconnections, water transfers could flow from the west through various systems, including New London, Norwich, East Lyme, Montville and Waterford, or from the Mystic / Aquarion system to the east. A general diversion permit issued through the Connecticut DEEP allows for such emergency transfers of up to 1,000,000 gallons per day. Should a major water main break occur along either of the interconnections, emergency pumping could be set up through hydrant transfers around the break area until repairs are made.

Two inactive wells at Loftus, deactivated but not yet abandoned, continue to have valid diversion permits that do not expire until 2020 (see Table 1). These could not, however, be reestablished for use within any reasonable period of time for a variety of reasons, including the fact that treatment facilities are planned for near future demolition.

Consideration is being given to the premise that, even if abandoned, it may be prudent to maintain this site as an aquifer protection area, through permitting, for a future emergency supply source.

For short term emergencies, such as those noted above for water main breaks, bottled drinking water could be provided for limited consumptive use, but not for other daily activities. Because The Town of Ledyard WPCA receives its water from Groton Utilities, such situations will be covered by their Water Emergency Contingency Plan.

A. Aquifer Protection Areas

B. Future Protective Zones

Because of the Town's current position as a water purchaser from Groton Utilities, there are no immediate plans for setting up future water sources (surface or groundwater) with their contingent protective zones. It will, however, endeavor to maintain the aquifer area and its protective zone around the decommissioned Loftus Wellfield in the event of a need for a future alternate supply area.

AQUIFER PROTECTION AREAS

Ledyard, CT

April 1, 2026

-  Level A APA (Final Adopted)
-  Level A APA (Final)
-  Level B APA (Preliminary)
-  Town Boundary

NOTE: The Aquifer Protection Areas were delineated through Connecticut's Level A and Level B Mapping Processes. Aquifer Protection Areas are delineated for active public water supply wells in stratified drift that serve more than 1000 people, in accordance with Sections 22a-354c and 22a-354z of the Connecticut General Statutes. Level B Mapping delineates a preliminary aquifer protection area, providing an estimate of the land area from which the well draws its water. Level A Mapping delineates the final Aquifer Protection Area, which becomes the regulatory boundary for land use controls designed to protect the well from contamination. As Level A Mapping is completed for each well field and approved by DEEP, it replaces the Level B Mapping. Final Adopted Level A Areas are those where towns have land use regulations for them. Massachusetts and Rhode Island Wellhead Protection Areas may be shown for informational purposes.

QUESTIONS:

Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Planning and Standards Division
Phone: (860) 424-3020
www.ct.gov/deep/aquiferprotection

