



Town of Vernon

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Town of Bolton

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October 7, 2022

CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
Mr. Charles Lee, Assistant Director & Mr. William Coleman Supervising Civil Engineer
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Draw Down Procedures for the Bolton Lakes State-Owned Impoundments

Dear: Mr. Lee and Mr. Coleman:

We are writing in response to your follow-up request. Over the past nine years, several meetings, email communications, data sharing, and fact-finding discussions have been conducted among the officials from the towns of Bolton, Vernon, certified lake consultants, and Friends of Bolton Lakes, a not-for-profit organization. Collectively, there were substantive scientific and relevant physical observations along with climate and environmental changes that lead to the conclusion that an update to the *1998 Request to Draw Down State Owned Impoundments* is justified. These data are available upon request.

During the same period there were strategic improvements accomplished throughout the three-lake Bolton regional watershed,

1. reconstruction of the upper lake dam (Hatch Hill) allowed for controlled water flow over the spillway and through the dam structure utilizing the newly installed sluice gate,
2. electronic water level loggers were purchased and placed in the middle and lower lakes to monitor water levels,
3. scheduled water monitoring that included chemical analyses and clarity measurements,
4. monitoring of aquatic invasive species and harmful algae blooms,
5. lake Ambassadors from Friends of Bolton Lakes were trained and certified by DEEP to monitor aquatic invasive species activity.

POLICY CHANGE REQUEST for the Bolton Lakes:

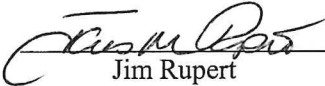
We, the undersigned designated town officials, request that DEEP append the **1998 Request to Draw Down State-Owned Impoundments**. The appended policy would include the procedures below that are specific and unique to the three Bolton Lakes system. These Bolton Lakes and their *Regional Watershed* should be considered as a single water body. All stakeholders are in agreement that this same 1998 document satisfactorily stipulated the parameters for the General Environmental Requirements.

THE REQUESTED POLICY CHANGES ARE:

1. There is interdependence of the drawdown levels and water quality of the three Bolton Lakes impoundments. (*Connecticut DEEP had previously authorized that a joint request for the annual drawdowns was granted to the towns of Bolton and Vernon.*)
2. There should be a procedure established that allows exceptional (not seasonal) drawdowns to occur.
3. There should be a procedure established for water and sediment quality analysis before and after drawdowns.
4. Emergency preparedness procedures are needed to be included within the drawdown procedures that are consistent with the towns' emergency management procedures.
5. DEEP shall electronically share the drawdown and other related recordkeeping information as expeditiously as possible with the towns of Bolton and Vernon, limnological consultants and organizations with need to know.
6. Drawdown requests should not adversely impact natural resources or aquatic life of the Bolton Lakes Watershed or the General Environmental Requirements (as noted in the 1998 policy) of the state or Federal Government.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Michael J. Purcaro
Town Administrator
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cc: Honorable Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor Vernon
Kim Welch, Bolton Lake Commissioner
Marty Sitrer, Director Parks & Recreation
David Forrest, Friends of Bolton Lakes
Shaun Gately, Director of Development Services
Dwight Ryniewicz, Vernon Director Public Works
John Kelley, Chief of Police