



# AQUARION

*Water Company*

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## **Aquarion Water Co. to invest \$25 million in Greenwich filter plant to improve aging structures, water quality, public health and safety**

GREENWICH —Aquarion Water Co. (AWC) plans to invest \$25 million in an upgrade of one of its Greenwich water filter plants, as part of its ongoing effort to improve water quality and protect public health and safety in that area.

“These upgrades are important for both Greenwich and Aquarion,” said George Logan, AWC Director of Capital & Planning. “By improving our treatment plant, we will eliminate obsolete structures, enhance public safety, ensure our Greenwich customers have the highest quality water, and increase the available water supply for firefighting.”

The Putnam Filter Plant, at 10 DeKraft Road at the southern end of Putnam Lake, has not had major improvements or upgrades since the 1950s. When AWC acquired the plant in 2002 as part of its purchase of Connecticut American Water Co., it immediately began a comprehensive study to determine and prioritize capital improvements to address critical problems there.

In the past six years, AWC has invested \$6 million to rehabilitate filters, install stand-by power, and upgrade electrical service at Putnam, which supplies up to 20 million gallons of water a day for consumption and fire safety. It is the largest source of water for the Greenwich area.

With this new project, AWC intends to replace a failing 1920s-era treatment clearwell with a new, larger one that meets current health department standards for water treatment.

In addition, AWC plans to build a new chemical feed and storage building so it can replace a failing and unsafe water treatment system with state-of-the-art equipment.

“Chemical treatment has been added to the facility over the years in response to ever-changing federal regulations,” Logan said. “As a result, chemical storage currently is shoe-horned into spaces not designed for such use, with low overhead space, poor lighting, and makeshift spill containment. The improvements we plan will result in safer storage conditions that will allow us to replace certain chemicals currently stored there, such as chlorine gas, with safer versions. This will result in a safer environment for the local community and our workers.”

Officials from AWC have gone before the Greenwich Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z) and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency with the Putnam proposal. They also will present the plans to the town’s Architectural Review Board and Planning & Zoning Board of Appeals.

Noting there are about a dozen homes near the plant, Logan said AWC representatives have met with neighbors to inform them of the plans and discuss landscaped buffers to screen the new structures from their properties.

Logan said the structures would be close to the edge of AWC’s property line, where the current clearwell and treatment plant are located, but there is no where else on the 70-acre parcel that is suitable for the project. “The elevation on the rest of the property isn’t high enough to maintain the current level of water pressure,” he said. “We would have to install pumps and mains to carry the water from the treatment plant to the clearwell and then back again. That isn’t viable from either a practical or financial standpoint. Instead, our plans place the clearwell next to the treatment plant.”

He said consultants from an engineering firm that has been working with AWC are preparing a report for the Greenwich P&Z on the best siting for the new structures.

Aquarion Water Company is a public water supply company serving nearly 600,000 people in 36 communities throughout Connecticut. It is among the 10 largest investor-owned water utility companies in the U.S., and last year it celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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