

Tilcon/New Britain Reservoir Proposal FAQs

General Questions

What are the benefits (economic, environmental and quality of life) of this project?

- Keep strong tax base and economic supporter operational for another 40 years, conversion of 108 acres of heavy industrial zoned land to Class 1 reservoir, create a 1000-foot buffer and move blasting and mining operations further away from neighborhoods.

Why is important to move forward with this legislation right now?

- The sooner the legislature acts, the sooner the process to build this reservoir begins and the sooner the community can enjoy the benefits.

Why has Tilcon waited since 2007 (when legislation was last attempted) to gain access to the property for mining purposes?

- Concerns about the economy have delayed this project being introduced again, but the timing is now right to move forward with this proposal.

If New Britain and Tilcon are unsuccessful in their bid for permission to enter into a lease what will that mean for Tilcon operations at the existing facility? Will blasting continue? If so, for how much longer? And where (in relation to neighborhoods)?

- Blasting will continue, as there is another 25-30 years of "life" left in the mine. If this project is not approved, blasting would be as close as 300 feet to some houses.

If New Britain and Tilcon are successful, how will the creation of the reservoir progress? How long before the new reservoir is created?

- Approximately 40 years for the 4.7 billion gallon reservoir, but the existing rainwater and groundwater that collects in the quarry would be thoroughly tested to meet drinking water standards and it is anticipated that water could be immediately pumped into the Shuttle Meadow Reservoir watershed.

Are there nearby fault lines and does the blasting increase the risk for earthquakes? What is the potential of damage to the nearby gas pipeline?

- All blasting done by Tilcon is heavily regulated and monitored. All work falls within federal safety standards.

How much would Tilcon pay New Britain for to purchase the mineral rights to this land?

- The price is still being negotiated.

Neighborhood Concerns

How will Tilcon guarantee neighbors' concerns are addressed and their voices are heard as this project moves forward?

- Tilcon is committed to being transparent, hearing neighborhood concerns and answering all questions. Tilcon is open to establishing neighborhood advisory councils to keep the lines of communication open.

How will this project impact the frequency and location of Tilcon's blasting on the quarry property?

- This project will create a 1000-foot buffer from homes and move blasting operations to the south.

What will you do about the cracks in people's homes? Do you have or will you be getting insurance to protect neighbors' homes from cracking and other structural damage?

- Tilcon has insurance and there are procedures in place to handle issues like this.

Will there be increased traffic in the neighborhoods by shifting the quarry zone? Will this project change the public view of the quarry and Tilcon's operations?

- This project will not result in any change in truck traffic on the quarry site. Trucks will continue to use the quarry's main entrance. There will be no change to the public view of the quarry.

What will the effect of this project be on Plainville residential wells? Will this surface water supply be accessible to Plainville residents who want to change over to city water?

- All Plainville residents are in the future service area of the Valley Water Co.

Environmental Concerns

Will there be an environmental impact study for the project? What is the timing on that review?

- There will be a review of the need, as an update of New Britain's Water Supply Plan is scheduled to be done in 2017. Water demand projections through the year 2067 will be made using the Office of Policy and Management's most up to date population projections.

What impact will this project have on the designated watershed areas on this property?

- The completed project will result in a net gain of about 108 acres of Class 1 and 2 watershed land.

Will approval of this project set a dangerous precedent that puts watershed areas in other cities and towns at risk?

- The legislation being proposed is specific to only this project and would not have any direct impact on other land across Connecticut.

Water Supply Questions

Why does New Britain need to improve its water supply with a new reservoir? 28% of New Britain's safe yield is from a raw water purchase agreement with the MDC, the creation of this reservoir is listed in New Britain's approved water supply plan as a potential future source of supply. Will there be an independent study to verify the need?

- Update of New Britain's Water Supply Plan is scheduled to be done in 2017. Water demand projections through the year 2067 will be made using the Office of Policy and Management's most up to date population projections. This project will ultimately add 4.74 Billion gallons to the water supply.

Isn't there an overabundance of water in the greater New Britain area, given that all the heavy industry that used to be dependent on a large supply of water is no longer operational?

- New Britain's top three largest consumers are the Towns of Berlin, Kensington and the City of Bristol.

Where will the water that fills the reservoir come from? Rainwater and our upland supplies that originate in Burlington. How will it be tested to ensure its safety?

- It will be tested as a raw water source of supply that could be either used to supplement the storage in Shuttle Meadow Reservoir or fed directly into our water treatment plant. Such tests will be conducted to conform to all CT and Federal standards for drinking water.