



COUNCIL POLICY			
Water Infrastructure Expansion Criteria			
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1. PURPOSE

To establish clear and transparent criteria for prioritizing water infrastructure expansion projects within the Town of Londonderry.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all departments and officials involved in planning, evaluating, and recommending water infrastructure expansion projects.

3. DEFINITIONS

- **Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards (AGQS)** are regulatory benchmarks established by state or federal environmental agencies to protect groundwater resources. They set the maximum allowable concentrations of various contaminants in groundwater to ensure that the water remains safe for drinking, agricultural, recreational, and ecological uses.
- **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)** are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been widely used since the 1940s. They are sometimes referred to as “forever chemicals” because they do not easily break down in the environment or the human body, meaning they can accumulate over time.
- **New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES)** is the state agency responsible for protecting, restoring, and maintaining the environmental quality of New Hampshire’s air, water, and land resources.

4. POLICY DETAIL

4.1 Decision Criteria for Prioritizing Water Infrastructure Expansion

1. Contamination Risk (AGQS Exceedances including PFAS)
 - a. Justification: Protecting public health is the highest priority. Areas where PFAS or other regulated contaminants exceed Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards (AGQS) should be addressed first, especially where private wells are failing or unsafe.
 - b. Data Source: PFAS Sampling Maps – NHDES; private well testing



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2. Sensitive Populations (Schools, Daycares, Senior Facilities)
 - a. Justification: These institutions serve sensitive populations and are often held to higher water quality standards. Ensuring clean, reliable water supply at these locations reduces health risk and builds community trust.
 - b. Example Facilities: Senior housing facilities & developments; daycare facilities; private school facilities

3. Proximity to Existing Water Infrastructure
 - a. Justification: Building off of current distribution zones reduces engineering complexity, cost, and time. Close proximity also increases project feasibility and may qualify for lower grant matching rates.
 - b. Data Sources: Pennichuck service area maps; Derry Water service maps; Manchester Water Works service maps; Pennichuck potential expansion documents

4. Population Density
 - a. Justification: Projects that serve a higher number of residents maximize return on investment. High-density areas yield higher cost efficiency per linear foot of water main installed.
 - b. Data Source: Census block data; zoning/planning maps; assessing records

5. Construction Feasibility (Topography & Land Use)
 - a. Justification: Terrain and existing land use greatly affect cost and constructability. Prioritize areas with favorable soil conditions, minimal ledge, and right-of-way access to reduce delays and cost overruns.
 - b. Tools: Topographic maps, wetlands and conservation overlays, Town of Londonderry GIS



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6. NHDES Rebate Utilization

- a. Justification: Areas with low rebate use despite eligibility may indicate underserved zones or limited awareness. Identifying and prioritizing such areas can maximize state-level financial support and address hidden need.
- b. Source: NHDES PFAS Rebate Participation Database

7. Fire Protection Needs

- a. Justification: Waterline installation brings fire hydrant coverage to areas lacking adequate fire flow. This improves safety, lowers property insurance premiums, and supports firefighting capabilities.
- b. Assessment: ISO ratings, distance to nearest hydrant, fire department response maps

4.2 Availability of Funds and Funding Sources

- 1. Certain funds and funding sources may come available in different amounts from different sources at different times. In these cases, the total amount of funds could impact the order of projects depending on the connection between the potential amount available and the magnitude of the project.
- 2. While not factored into initial prioritization, funding is a factor in moving projects up and down the list.

5. PROCEDURES

- 5.1 Collect and review data from identified sources.
- 5.2 Apply prioritization criteria as outlined in Policy Detail.
- 5.3 Consider funding availability when finalizing project sequencing.
- 5.4 Receive feedback from the Utilities Committee on project sequence.
- 5.5 Present recommendations to the Town Council for approval.

6. REFERENCES



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7. REVISION HISTORY

Original Adoption Date: August 18, 2025		
Section	Description of Revision	Date
New Policy	Initial Adoption	08/18/2025