



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4/25/13

Media Contact:
Peter Fazekas
Public Relations Manager
Aquarion Water Company
Phone: (203) 336-7651

Aquarion/DEEP/TNC to Begin Forest Regeneration Project in Shelton

Work on 20 Acres of Damaged Forest in Booth Hill to Start the Week of April 29th

BRIDGEPORT, CONN. – April 25, 2013 – As a result of damage stemming from 2012’s Hurricane Sandy, Aquarion Water Company, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) today announced the start of work to remove trees blown over, damaged, or at risk of falling in the future along Shelton’s Booth Hill within Centennial Watershed State Forest. Beginning the week of April 29, 2013, damaged trees on the approximately 20 acres of affected property will be salvaged for timber use. The hurricane caused substantial damage to trees on the land, mainly white pine.

“Targeted logging of the trees will help speed the forest’s recovery,” said Gary Haines, Aquarion’s chief forester. “It will allow more sunlight to reach the forest floor and help seedlings to sprout. Also, leaving larger pieces of coarse woody debris on the ground will protect against deer browsing and erosion and will decompose to help replenish forest soils.”

Aquarion is leaving some dead or dying trees uncut due to the fact that many birds and other forms of wildlife rely on dead or dying trees for refuge, nesting sites and perching areas. The company has instructed the loggers working on the property to leave at least six dead or dying trees standing per acre.

“Black birch, sugar maple, ash, beech, yellow poplar, red maple and oak will be flourishing where white pine were previously predominant,” said Haines. “The greater variety of trees and other plants will provide wildlife with a richer source of food and shelter, while also providing a healthier and more stable ecosystem. The new hardwood stands will also be less susceptible to storm damage, and insects and diseases that attack single species.”

The largest site begins approximately 350 feet south of Mohegan Rd. and extends south along Booth Hill to Woods Grove Rd. A second smaller site is about 1250 feet south of Woods Grove Rd. on Booth Hill Rd. Landings and access ways will be utilized at the sites.

Police are providing traffic control where needed. Work is scheduled between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and may also include weekends. The project is expected to conclude by the end of May.

A list of “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) about this forest regeneration project can be found at www.aquarionwater.com as well as information about recreational opportunities within Centennial Watershed State Forest.

About Aquarion Water Company:

Aquarion Water Company is the public water supply company for more than 625,000 people in 47 cities and towns throughout Connecticut, as well as serving customers in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. It is the largest investor-owned water utility in New England and among the seven largest in the U.S. Based in Bridgeport, Conn., it has been in the public water supply business since 1857. Across its operations, Aquarion strives to act as a responsible steward of the environment and to assist the communities it serves in promoting sustainable practices.

For more information on Aquarion Water Company and its subsidiaries, please visit www.aquarionwater.com or www.facebook.com/aquarionwater.

About CT DEEP:

CT DEEP cares for 32 State Forests totaling about 170,000 acres throughout the State of Connecticut.

Stewardship objectives for these lands develop a vigorous, resilient, forest environment capable of sustaining the wide range of public benefits including a variety of recreational experiences, drinking water supply protection, natural diversity (including threatened and endangered species), the preservation of unique sites (both geologic and archeological), the provision of raw materials as forest products, and the maintenance of wildlife and fisheries habitats.

The 15,000 acre [Centennial Watershed State Forest](#) is managed under a unique partnership with Aquarion, DEEP, the Nature Conservancy. Together these entities bring a broad array of professional natural resource oversight ensuring that these forests remain healthy and vigorous while serving the needs of the citizens of Connecticut.

About The Nature Conservancy:

The Nature Conservancy is the leading conservation organization working around the world to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. The Conservancy and its more than 1 million members have protected nearly 120 million acres worldwide. Visit The Nature Conservancy on the Web at www.nature.org/connecticut

###