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Aquarion and Newtown Forest Association Propose Public-Private Partnership Solution to Preserve Castle Hill Properties as Open Space

BRIDGEPORT, CONN. – March 13, 2013 – The Aquarion Water Company and Newtown Forest Association, Inc. (NFA) have proposed a public-private partnership solution with the goal of purchasing and preserving two parcels of land totaling 136 acres, now owned by the Bridgeport Diocese, for future generations.

The two parcels, located on Castle Hill Road, are in close proximity to historic Main Street, and would be designated as open space. The parcels, which are contiguous to, or close to six other NFA and town properties totaling 65 acres, will allow for the creation of a ‘Green-way’ of open space.

In making the announcement, Charles V. Firlotte, President and CEO of Aquarion, said, “In addition to our mission of providing our customers with safe clean water, we are also stewards of the environment. We take this responsibility seriously, as evidenced by the almost 20,000 acres we maintain with the Nature Conservancy and Connecticut Forest and Parks Association, in other parts of the state. In addition, this will also allow Aquarion the opportunity to use this for future water rights, if necessary.”

Robert Eckenrode, President of NFA, said, “We have identified these two parcels of land as being integral to the town’s and region’s successful open space program within the Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership. This partnership between Aquarion and NFA can help protect wildlife, native plants, trails, streams and wetlands for many generations.”

Firlotte said, “Aquarion has committed \$400,000 to the preservation of this property for open space and to serve the needs of providing public water service into the future.”

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.

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