

MDC ANNOUNCES TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION MILESTONE

Tunnel boring machine “Iris” to be lowered into tunnel this week

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(HARTFORD, CT) – The Metropolitan District (MDC) announced that the South Hartford Conveyance and Storage Tunnel (SHCST) will reach a major construction milestone this week. Over the course of the week, the tunnel boring machine (TBM) will be lowered in separate segments called the “shield” and “cutter head” approximately 200 feet down into the starter tunnel where it will then be assembled. The TBM was given the name “Iris” by a local student as part of a contest last year.

The SHCST is a four mile long deep rock tunnel designed to temporarily store excess combined wastewater and storm water during rain events, and then convey the flows to the Hartford Water Pollution Control Facility (HWPCF) for treatment. The tunnel is a major component of the MDC’s Clean Water Project (CWP), an over \$2 billion state and federal mandate to reduce combined and sanitary sewer overflows.

The tunnel will have a capacity of 41.5 million gallons will help prevent the HWPCF from being overwhelmed during storms. The 18 foot diameter tunnel will be constructed in bedrock approximately 200 feet below ground, effectively eliminating surface disruption during construction.

Construction on the tunnel began in the fall of 2016. Once assembled, the TBM is scheduled to begin digging a 4 mile path later this fall from the tunnel’s launch shaft on Brainard Road to a retrieval shaft located on Talcott Road in West Hartford. It is currently estimated that it will take 18 months for the TBM to make the whole trip. The entire tunnel project, which also includes a pump station and other conduits is projected to be complete and in operation by 2023.

“We are excited to hit this major milestone with the tunnel and look forward to the next phase of this first of its kind project in Connecticut”, stated MDC CEO Scott Jellison.

***About MDC:** The MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929. The MDC provides water, wastewater treatment and other services to its member towns: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. In addition, the District supplies treated water to portions of Glastonbury, South Windsor, Farmington, East Granby and Portland.*

