

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture provided correspondence indicating farms crossed by the Connecticut Loop are enrolled in the Farmland Preservation Program. The development rights of these farms have been purchased jointly by the State of Connecticut and the town in which the farm is located in order to preserve the land in perpetuity for agricultural purposes only. Chapter 422a Secs 22-26aa to 22-26qq of the Connecticut Statutes defines development rights as “the rights of the fee simple owner of agricultural land to develop, construct on, sell, lease or otherwise improve the agricultural land for uses that result in rendering such land no longer agricultural land...” Because a buried pipeline is compatible with farming activities, installing an additional pipeline in an existing right-of-way will not result in a change to land use and does not violate the terms of the Farmland Preservation Program. No aboveground facilities have been sited in areas with agricultural restrictions.