



CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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STATEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL OF NEW BRITAIN WATER COMPANY LAND USE CHANGE

NEW BRITAIN—Mayor Erin Stewart released the following statement today, withdrawing from further consideration a proposal to change the use of New Britain Water Company land to accommodate a proposed quarry and the creation of a new public water storage reservoir.

“Over the past several years, the City has undertaken a detailed and public process to determine whether to move forward with this project. After much consideration, including the results of a comprehensive feasibility analysis as well as the feedback I have received from the public, I have chosen to withdraw the proposal to change New Britain Water Company land to allow for a new public water storage reservoir.

“The City has already invested a large amount of taxpayer money into evaluating this proposal, including a recently released four-season study that was mandated by the Legislature. The conclusions contained in this report raise additional questions that will require further study and expense. Those are additional and substantial costs that I am not willing to ask our taxpayers to bear.

“From the outset, it was agreed that a study would be performed, the results would be analyzed, and a decision made. Over the last two years—throughout the course of much public dialogue—it has become clear that there remain strong and widely-held views on both sides of this issue. I have the utmost respect for the views expressed by proponents and opponents of this proposal and I am heartened that we foster an environment at City Hall that welcomes all viewpoints.

“It’s unfortunate that many issues quickly clouded any ability to have objective discussions about this proposal. This is a serious issue; one day, I sincerely hope our elected leaders will take responsibility for addressing the long-term water needs of our region. We know that the New Britain Water Company will have a demand for clean, potable water in the future and we have an obligation to our customers to ensure that they continue to have the resources that they need.”

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