

THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY

IMPORTANT

B#: 8943

DATE: January 3, 2000

TO: All DTC Participants

FROM: Frank Martinez, Manager

ATTENTION: Managing Partner/Officer, Cashier, Operations Manager

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY OF A CORPORATE ISSUE
REQUIRING MANDATORY WITHDRAWAL**

The securities of Bank of WestPort, CUSIP 0657481 05 (common stock) and CUSIP 065748 1 13 (warrant) are ineligible for Depository Trust services due to a transfer restriction which requires the common stock and warrant to be transferred and traded together as a combined unit until December 31, 2000.

On or about January 14, 2000, DTC will exit each Participant's Free Position in this issue by COD (Certificate-On-Demand). These COD's will be available for pick up at DTC's Central Delivery Department by 3:00 p.m. on that day.

NOTE TO CASHIER: Securities pledged as collateral for loans must be released or substituted with other securities.

Inquiries regarding this notice should be directed to Patrick Horan at (516) 227-4036.

NOTE : Nothing contained in this notice shall relieve Participants of their responsibility, Under DTC's Rules and Procedures, to check the accuracy of the daily Participant Statements issued to them by DTC and to notify DTC of any discrepancies.