



Environmental Engineering Program (EEP) July 11, 2019 Code Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

CAC Member Updates, Meeting Sign-in (Members & Visitors), Visitor Comments

- CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH)
- CT Association of Water Pollution Control Authorities (CAWPCA)
- CT Environmental Health Association (CEHA): Ryan McCammon replaces Don Mitchell as a CAC Rep. Issued “Save the Date” notice for the October 2019 Soils Training Workshop.
- CT Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (COWRA)
- CT Water Well Association (CWWA)
- Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP): Pending modifications to the existing SSDS General Permit to cover new SSDSs and certain farm generated wastewaters. Once it goes to public notice it will be sent electronically to the CAC.
- Home Builders and Remodelers Association of CT (HB & RA of CT)
- Professional Engineers: Doug DiVesta no longer conducting COWRA training, retiring? CAC status TBD.
- Soil Scientists
- Visitors, Richard Couch, others

Department of Public Health (DPH) Organizational Updates: New Commissioner: Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH, Deputy Commissioner and Communications Director changes, Environmental Health Section, Section Chief, Suzanne Blancaflor retired July 1, 2019. Reorganizational information not yet available. Priorities noted at Commissioner Coleman-Mitchell’s Re-meet and Re-greet included Environmental and Local Health.

Legislative Matters:

- **Senate Bill #1013 An Act Concerning Certain Sewage Disposal Systems and Alternative Sewage Treatment Systems:** Section 1 would have raised DPH SSDS jurisdiction design flow cited in CGS Sec. 22a-430 Subsection (g) from 7,500 GPD to 10,000 GPD. Section 2 would have modified the alternative treatment (AT) system language in CGS Sec. 19a-35a Subsection (a) to remove the reference to “within available appropriations”, and raise the 5,000 GPD to 10,000 GPD AT design flow. Bill died in committee. DPH testimony opposed bill, HB & RA of CT testimony supported bill, no testimony from other CAC organizations.
- **Public Act #19-117 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending 6/30/21, and making Appropriations therefor, and Provisions Related to Revenue and other Items to Implement the State Budget:** Of note in Section 368 (pages 554 & 555 of 580): OPM review of departmental fees and recommendations for fee increases (minimum \$50 million) with report to legislature by 2/5/20.
- **Planning and Development Committee:** On 2/20/19 the committee voted to raise the concept: An Act Concerning Septic Systems. Suggested language concerning “wastewater transport tanks” for inclusion in the Family Campground regulations (RCSA Sec. 19a-2a-29). The concept did not result in a bill. This matter is related to the use of portable wastewater holding tanks (a.k.a., blue boys) as discussed in DPH Circular Letter #2018-25 (RE: Use of Wastewater Holding Tanks at Family Campgrounds).
- **House Bill #7348/File #655 An Act Concerning Bonding Authorizations for Clean Water Fund Projects:** Includes minimum of \$20 million to provide grants for demonstration projects to reduce nonpoint source pollution of Long Island Sound. Bonding to be taken up in Special Session.

Building Code Matters:

- **Condensate Water:** EEP communicated with the Office of the State Building Inspector and DEEP about disposal of condensate from high efficiency gas furnaces and AC units, and it was concluded that properly neutralized (per building code) condensate can be directed to the building’s SSDS or sewer connection. DEEP indicated ground discharges are not permitted (except from portable A/C units), and discharges to foundation drainage systems is also problematic.

Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems (Technical Standards) Items:

- **Appendix C: Approved Filter Fabric for Covering Stone Aggregate:** Language in Technical Standards Section VIII A stipulates DPH may update the appendix prior to the next standard revision. EEP finalizing review of a fabric (NW150SP) from a new company (Mutual Industries), and a re-designation of a currently approved SRW Products' fabric (DF1 to DF1.5).
- **Proprietary Leaching Systems:** Language in Technical Standards Section VIII G stipulates approved leaching systems with assigned ELA ratings are listed in the standards or in a DPH approval. EEP is currently reviewing a proposed proprietary leaching system (HWS-A-50-56-11) submission made by Richard Couch, PE. The system is somewhat unique and Mr. Couch has been invited to the CAC meeting to discuss his system.
- **Future Revisions:** The next revision is anticipated to be published on 1/1/21. EEP has started to compile a list of possible revisions that will be vetted with the CAC. Items for discussion:
 - **Residential Outbuilding Sizing for a Central SSDS:** Language in Technical Standards Section VIII F 1 currently stipulates: A central SSDS serving a residential outbuilding and a single-family residential building shall base the outbuilding's required ELA on a multi-family classification unless the outbuilding doesn't have additional plumbing fixtures (e.g., kitchen sink, dishwasher, washing machine) beyond a full bathroom. EEP has been applying the reduced design flow (75 GPD vs 150 GPD) also for septic tank and MLSS Flow Factor purposes in addition to ELA sizing for outbuildings with ½ baths only. Consideration is being given to require outbuilding SSDS sizing to be based on 150 GPD design flow per bedroom regardless of extent of plumbing.
 - **2 Bedroom Multi-Family Buildings (2 separate 1-Bedroom units):** Language in Technical Standards Section VIII F 1 currently stipulates: The required ELA for a multi-family residential building shall be based on a minimum of 4-bedrooms. Revision warranted? Central SSDSs: Single-family and a 2-bedroom multi-family, considering not allowing as it may constitute a DEEP regulated community sewerage system.
 - **Building Sewer Cleanouts for Slab on Grade Construction:** Not currently addressed.
 - **MLSS Considerations:** Leaching system that rely on same receiving soil with leaching systems on adjoining properties, especially on coastal "postage stamp" lots. Technical Standards Appendix A (MLSS) notes separate leaching systems that rely on the same receiving soil shall be evaluated collectively as a single leaching system. This applies to leaching systems on sloped lots less than 50 feet apart within the same hydraulic window, and leaching systems less than 25 feet apart on radial flow lots.

Water Treatment Wastewater (WTW):

- **SSDS Discharges:** Matt Pawlik and Sean Merrigan will represent EEP on workgroup to review other possible WTW categories that can be included in Technical Standards Appendix E for allowable discharge to a SSDS.

Training Events:

- **Soils Training Workshop:** CEHA in conjunction with DPH will be presenting the next workshop on October 23 and 24, 2019 at DEEP's Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington, CT.

Resiliency Matters:

- **July 23, 2019 CIRCA Resilient CT Webinar:** New Planning and Visualization Tools for Sea Level Rise
- **Town of Old Saybrook & Borough of Fenwick Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:** GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. June 2019 Draft for Review (359 pages). The report discusses the town's Decentralized Wastewater Management District and it notes the majority of land within the district is within the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area making the areas highly vulnerable to coastal flooding.
- **June 19, 2019 EPA Decentralized Wastewater Webinar:** Natural Disaster Preparedness and Recovery for Communities Served by Decentralized Wastewater Systems. One of the four presenters was the Westbrook DOH, Sonia Marino, MPH and she discussed CT coastal impacts as a result of storms Irene (2011) and Sandy (2012). Ms. Marino shared excellent photos detailing sewage system (septic systems and cesspools) damage caused by the storms, and many of the photos were taken by Wendy Brown-Arnold, RS.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Matters:

- **DEEP Consultant Study (Phase II):** Request for Proposals to evaluate findings from the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) study Phase I report: *Inventory and Assessment of OWTSs and their Impact on Nitrogen Loadings to CT's Coastal Areas.*

P/RWS/CAC Agenda 7-11-19