

# WELCOME

***Please introduce yourself in the chat:***

- *Name,*
- *Affiliation,*
- *Where you're calling from*



## Who is CEEJAC?

Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council is an appointed body of environmental justice residents and advocates, business and state agency representatives.

The council advises the Commissioner of DEEP on incorporation of environmental justice across DEEP's programs, policies, and activities.

# Agenda

Connecticut Equity and  
Environmental Justice  
Advisory Council (CEEJAC)



- **Welcome**
- **Community Dialogues (*formerly known as Public Comment*)**
- **Subcommittee Presentations**
- **Discussion: State of Environmental Justice on a federal, state, and local level**
- **DEEP Updates and Announcements**



## Community Dialogues

Facilitated by Cierra Patrick

\*Please limit response to 3 minutes

Please share a topic or environmental justice issues you would like CEEJAC to consider

**OR**

Elaborate on topics raised during our retreat:

- EJ Regulations
- Energy efficiency & affordability
- Solar for All
- Access to green space
- CT Green Plan
- Eliminating barriers to ownership with EVs & E-Bikes
- Access to clean waterways
- Urban riparian zones
- Adjudication process
- Concerns related to facilities



## Subcommittee Presentations

Subcommittee chairs will present about topics for discussion this year and discussions from a council retreat at the end of 2024.

***We want to hear you on what needs further exploration, or what you want to hear more about***



## Water Subcommittee

**Subcommittee Chair:** Cierra Patrick, City of Groton

**Main Question:** How communities and residents can become engaged in cleaning and protecting local watersheds?





**Water Subcommittee**

## **Watershed Series:**

- **March 6th** ~ Watersheds 101 presentation from Denise Savageau highlighting what watersheds are and why they're an EJ issue
- **March 31st** ~ Watershed Planning 101, Hear lessons learned from partnerships with communities and conservation districts to shape local initiatives.
- **April 9th** ~ Watershed debrief with Subcommittee

## **Upcoming Events & Topics:**

- Watershed (in-person) Listening Session in Groton and another Municipality
- Water and Public Health;
- Long Island Sound Study Environmental Justice Needs Assessment particularly about coastal access



## Waste Subcommittee

**Co-Chairs:** Diane Lauricella, Norwalk Zero Waste Coalition and Adrienne Farrar Houel, Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises

**Main Focus:** Building awareness and skills about waste and recycling for new, expanded, and existing facilities.

## Action Plan: Adjudications 101 on 3/18 Online



**CT DEEP Office of Adjudications** conducts hearings and issues decisions in cases regarding environmental permitting, licensing, and enforcement matters

- Education about the permit adjudications process, why they matter, and the role you can play.
- Education about enforcement of the rules and how permitting works.
- Recycling and Reuse education best practices to save money and your neighborhood. Review of successful waste management programs that fit your neighborhood.
- Explore Green Job opportunities in the waste management business.



## Land Subcommittee

**Chair:** Yaw Darko, CT Land Conservation Council

**Main Focus:** Ways to engage in state planning efforts related to land and conservation

### **Actions:**

- Learning about and providing feedback on state planning efforts - integration of environmental justice
- Learning about and engaging around remediation funding resources for organizations and communities - bridging resources
- Land/Water Subcommittee intersections to understand community resiliency - watershed health/land conservation



## Energy & Technology Subcommittee



**Integrated Resources Plan:** 10-year plan that assesses state electricity needs and pathways to meet needs affordably

**ISO-NE** *operates regional power system, implements wholesale markets, ensures open access to transmission lines*

**Chair:** Jayson Velazquez, CT Green Bank

**Main Focus:** Supporting efforts around energy affordability and efficiency programs

**Action Plan:** Learning about:

- **March 19:** Public Benefits Charge with Office of Consumer Counsel
- **April 2:** Community Renewable Energy Siting Tool (CREST) with DEEP
- **Upcoming Meetings:**
  - State Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) with DEEP
  - Independent System Operator for New England (ISO-NE)



## Air & Transportation Subcommittee



Air & Transportation Event:  
EV and eBike Panel  
April 2024

**Chair:** Alex Rodriguez, Save the Sound

**Main Focus:** Organize community feedback on issues related to state and federal plans around emissions, electric vehicles and bikes, public transportation, and air quality monitoring and standards,

### Action Plan:

- Presentation from sustainable transportation leaders and sharing their recommendations to DEEP and DOT (April 2025)
- Air Enforcement Program Presentation from DEEP (July 2025)
- Healthy Air Data w/ DEEP's Air Bureau, Windsor Air Lab Tour, & Geospatial Measurement of Air Pollution (GMAP) Vehicle (October 2025)

**Discussion:**

**State of Environmental Justice on a Federal,  
State, and Local Level**

***Facilitated by Dr. Mark Mitchell***

**Intention for this Conversation:** Creating space to hear from environmental justice communities about what folks are seeing as potential challenges and opportunities.

**Discussion Prompts:**

- **What are your concerns?**
- **What are the needs you are seeing in EJ Communities?**
- **What are the potential funding gaps?**
- **What are available resources?**

## **DEEP Updates & Announcements**



# RELEASE-BASED CLEANUP

Presented by: Commissioner Katie Dykes  
Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

## TRANSFER ACT – STALLED CLEANUPS AND COMMUNITY BURDENS

**4,000 unique properties** have entered the Transfer Act program since 1985

- ... but only about half have **completed cleanups**
- 200 new filings per year

Program didn't require a cleanup timeline until 2009

- Completed cleanups take ~7 years on average



# BENEFITS OF REPLACING TRANSFER ACT



## Clean Up of Polluted Properties in CT's Towns and Cities

Many polluted properties are within the heart of communities and depress economy, health, and quality of life when they are not cleaned up.



## More Properties Available for Redevelopment

Many of these properties have sat vacant for decades. More properties will be available for development into commercial and residential use.

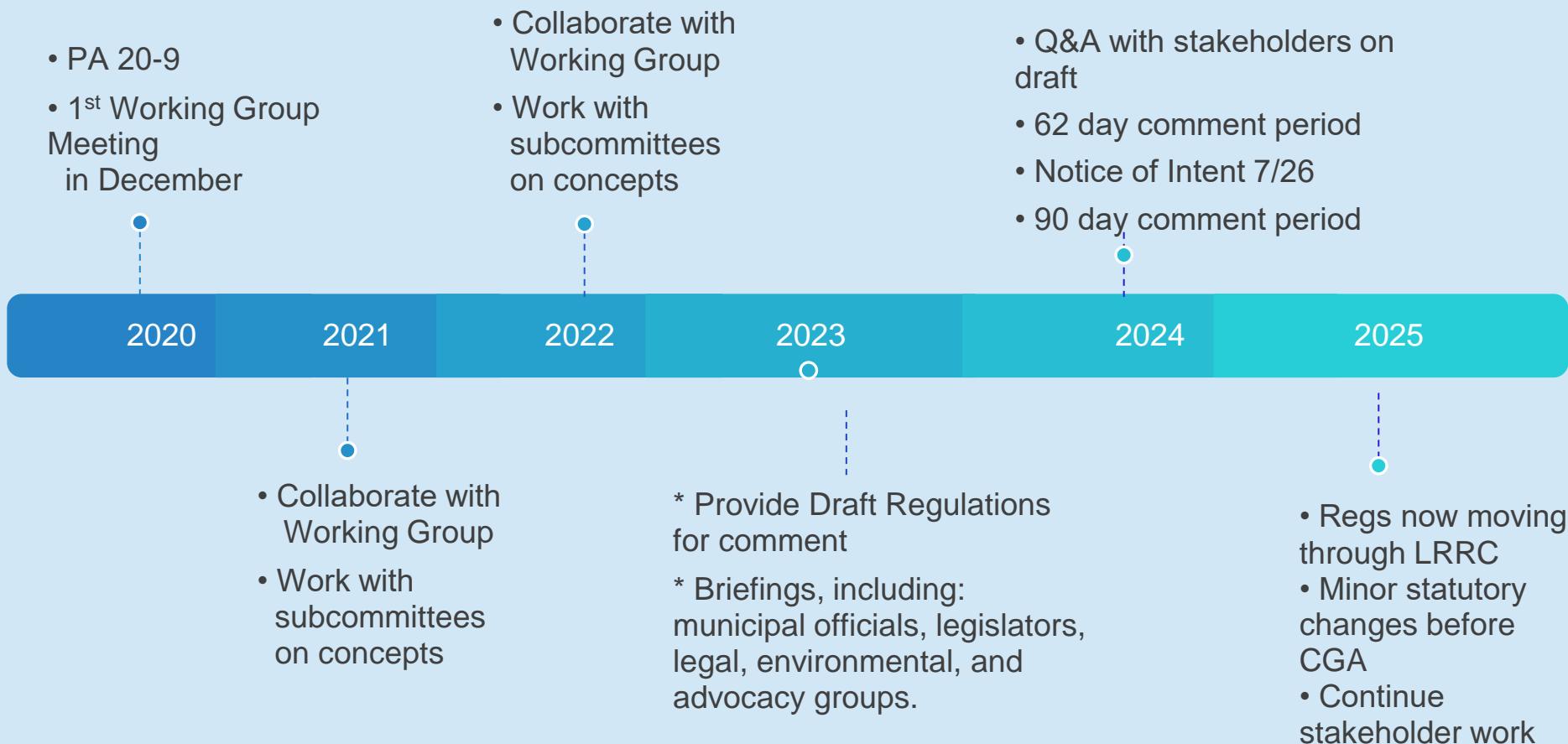


## Reduced Risk to Property Buyers

Less risk means these properties are more likely to be an option for local residents to purchase.



# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROCESS



# WHAT'S IN THIS REG PACKAGE?

## (OR, "WHY IS IT SO LONG?")

Sec. 1 – Released-Based Cleanup Regulations (22a-134tt-1 to 22a-134tt-13 and 22a-134tt-App1 to 22a-134tt-App12)

- **207 Pages total**
- **Incorporates about 90 pages of the state's existing cleanup standards** (the RSRs) in sections 22a-134tt-1, 22a-134tt-7, 22a-134tt-9 and 22a-134tt-10

Sec. 2 – Remediation Standards Regulations

- **About 87 pages of existing regulatory text bracketed for deletion**
- Replaces existing text with cross references to sections Release-Based Cleanup Regulations.

Sec. 3 – Administrative Civil Penalties Schedule (22a-6b-8(5)(c))

- **About 1 page**

Sec. 4 – Release Reporting Regulations (22a-450-1(d))

- **1 paragraph** (minor adjustment)

Sec. 5 – Environmental Use Restriction Regulations (22a-133q-1 to 22a-133q-9 and 22a-133q-App1 – 22a-133q-App2)

- **58 Pages**
- Adjustments to cross references only, no substantive changes

# TYPES OF RELEASES

RELEASES FIT INTO 3 GENERAL CATEGORIES:

## New Spills

Called “emergent reportable releases”

## Significant Existing Releases

Historical pollution that presents an immediate risk to human health and the environment

## Existing Releases

Historical pollution

# SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO COMMENTS



## Residential

- Exempt existing releases on parcels used for owner occupied single family homes



## Lower Bounds for Existing Releases

- Most releases discovered at 25% of criteria exempt
- Releases discovered at 25% to 50% of criteria may be exempt with only limited sampling required



## Lower Bounds for New Spills

- Exemption for releases of less than 2x reportable quantity (less than 10 gallons of oil or petroleum, 3 gallons of other substances)



## Expedited Audit Determinations for Residential

- Audit determinations within 3 days to facilitate residential transactions



## Limit Discovery by Observation

- Limit discovery by “multiple lines of evidence” to “investigations” to ensure discovery is the result of a business decision



## Grouping Releases

- Lower risk releases addressed quickly, without DEEP touchpoints

# NEXT STEPS

## Regs Submitted to LRRC

- On LRRC agenda for 3/25
- Resubmissions will likely be required (future meetings 4/22, 5/27, 6/24)

## Statutory Changes

- Small package of statutory changes
- Public Hearing on March 4<sup>th</sup>
- Stakeholder engagement ongoing

## Implementation Planning

- If approved this spring, this new regulatory program will go into effect March 2026
- DEEP and DECD will work together to develop an implementation plan, re-establish the working group as envisioned in HB 7085, and continue targeted education and outreach.



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# THANKS!