



**Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC)**  
**Waste Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 18, 2025**  
**4:00-5:30 PM**

**Link to Meeting Recording:**

<https://ctdeep.zoom.us/rec/share/KxK1SpkRIHhRHHexTZjcdZiBCiB2lfXA7d2l3tlqqhpucnZVU3Fn5fq1Pj-rTL.dweXF2vh7btTfYgx>

Disclaimer: Please note this is not a word for word translation

**I. Welcome from Chair**

**II. Presentation: Adjudications 101 with CT DEEP Adjudications Director, Kathleen Reiser**

**III. Discussion and Q&A**

**Diane Lauricella:** Can DEEP give the link for signing up for DEEP Adjudication Alerts?

- Edith shared the following link: <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/about/public-notice>

**Diane Lauricella:** If a group or neighborhood decides to become a petitioner at the very least if they do decide to intervene, is it practically necessary to find and be represented by an attorney?

- Kathleen: Everyone has a right to file. The process is a legal one therefore it might be complicated if one does not have that background. If you have questions, you cannot reach out to a hearing officer since they can only give you limited information. One does not need a legal degree to engage in this process but if you are new to the process, an attorney can assist you with that. Members of the public often see the hearing officer as a resource in the initial steps and they can provide some initial information but cannot provide legal advice or additional support.
  - Diane: Shared some resources she has used in the past and are more affordable than getting an attorney: Save the Sound has a legal team and depending on the topic they can offer some insight. CLF – Conservation Law Foundation has a CT chapter office. Environmental Defense Fund – The neighborhood would have to engage these environmental groups, and they must decide if this is worthy to take up.

**Diane Lauricella:** Based on her experience working with adjudications several years ago – in the process before tentative decision given by DEEP various staff review renewal applications for completeness. Under the current circumstances with DEEP's reduced staffing and institutional knowledge – she wanted to know if the permitting staff and

anyone on the call can answer whether DEEP looks at the file for that particular regulated facility to see if there are problems or complaints before issuing tentative permit? She had an issue with permit renewal with Norwalk sewage plant several years ago but doesn't think the public registered complaints with DEEP instead they did so with local health department which was not responsive. Good to make a record in writing and get photographs to help DEEP know whether that entity is being a good neighbor because they don't have enough staff who can go to the field. Helps make DEEP aware.

- Kathleen: Cannot speak too much on this since she's an adjudication officer. If a statute spells out compliance checks or whatever has to be in the permit, DEEP has to prove it meets that.
  - Diane: This can be a future discussion. Folks on the call can help their constituents know that they can help DEEP enforcement staff by offering and sending information so they are aware of problems because often times there are issues that the permit applicant will not tell them about.

**Adrienne Houel:** Any major projects being entertained right now? We spoke about a facility last night [at CEEJAC Quarterly Meeting] in Hamden's Newhall neighborhood. Are there any others that size or interest?

- Kathleen: The Office of Adjudications does not track or know since they only review information when it is received. They are free to reach out to DEEP and applicants directly if they have questions. Hearing officer should not be included in those correspondence because they can only see the records.

**Diane Lauricella:** When 25 signatures are handed in are there any requirements around the signature being in the facility where it is being permitted? Also, it makes sense to have an adjudications spokesperson comment on the kind of person or skills that a person should have and what they see when a petition is sent to them. This would be helpful resource.

- Kathleen: From a local standpoint: Unless it is written in statute does not need to be a requirement it can be interested individuals like people in surrounding towns. Unless in statute with a specific requirement it has to be 25 individuals. They ask for name, signature, contact information – basic information.

For the representative of the petitioner, it can be someone who hasn't submitted a petitioner before but is gathering the group. It can also be an attorney that is representing the whole group. The best quality of petitioner is someone who can distribute information well and communicate all the steps to the public so they feel engaged in all those processes. In the future hopefully adjudications can make information made available online but not there right now. Can reach out to hearing officer to see the record. Anything filed with Office of Adjudications, unless deemed confidential, is a public document and the public can get a copy.

**Diane Lauricella:** If the public is thinking about getting involved in this process, becoming an intervener, or starting a petition its good to see an example of a case. How can the

public access hearings and petitions mainly particular adjudications examples. Are there files of a finished hearing where the public could research it to see all the steps to feel more comfortable and see the types of things that encountered during this process?

- Kathleen: Working on a system that is clear and that the public can access full records. A current starting point is to go to proposed and final decisions on the Adjudications website. To get copies of the recording, administrative record, and anything else requested (if available), you can reach out to the adjudications officer.

#### **IV. Announcements and Closing**

##### **List of Participants**

Diane Lauricella  
Patrick Kearney  
Alissa Bullard  
Bumstead  
MEGHAN LALLY  
Cierra Patrick  
ROBYN NICHOLS  
L Stephenson  
Paul Aresta  
Sheila Barney  
Terry Adams  
Michael Looney  
Eliza Heins  
Jameson Davis  
Madison Spremulli  
Kathleen Reiser  
Doris Johnson  
Adrienne Houel  
Jacquelyn Torres  
Chris Nelson  
Aaron Goode  
Sarah Huang