



**Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC)
Waste Subcommittee**

**Tuesday, July 16, 2024
6:00-7:30 pm**

Meeting Recording:

https://ctdeep.zoom.us/rec/share/7TcczTkcQQhmmWces9HxqakQ23O6AVEXbsokb2OUcz7LxnstfguUDyt_v57uhE3Y.KT94gLcOpzeAFoRp

Link to Presentation Slides:

1. Welcome

Adrienne provided a welcome for the meeting and introduced Dr. Mark Mitchell. The Waste Subcommittee has been interested in learning about plastics – manufacturing, components, and distribution of them.

2. Presentation – Plastics and Environmental Justice

Dr. Mark Mitchell announced that he does not work for any commercial industries. He provided a history of plastics, description of how plastics are made, how plastics are used. His presentation focused specifically on polyvinyl chloride (PVC), including the health and social effects of exposure during production, usage, and disposal. He shared the alternatives to PVC including non-plastic alternatives and the power of community activism to ask companies to phase out PVC. He also focused on Bisphenol A (BPA), including the health and social effects of exposure and ways to reduce exposure. Then he talked about states with “bottle bills” or states that have deposit return systems for plastic bottles (including CT). He talked about additional policy solutions to managing plastic waste.

3. Discussion and Public Comment

Susan Halpern – Do all brands of drinking water not contain PVC? NIP bottles are not being recycled and they are being disposed of on the streets.

- Dr. Mitchell – NIP bottles have 50 mL of alcohol and CT made legislation to tax those bottles and the tax would go back to the town to go towards recycling education and clean up. There was a lot of testing done on different brands, but testing is very expensive and difficult.

Jodie Maro – Bristol, CT. Is there any programs to educate communities who host an incinerator where they can get the data and information that they should have before supporting companies? Many city officials don't understand the health concerns about burning medical waste.

- Dr. Mitchell – They usually come to your public works officials. Many officials don't consult the health experts.

Francis Pickering - NTD Bristol Covanta plant. Permit applicants are not updating the EJ Plan. Bristol only has 4 affecting facilities right now (within 1 mile radius). We're looking at EJ through a municipal lens only, I live on the border of Bristol. We submitted a noise pollution complaint. The noise goes across the municipal boundaries. State regulations use DBA scale for middle pitch sounds. How can we address and look at low-frequency noise?

Diane Lauricella – What can CEEJAC do to enter into a discussion with DEEP about best management practices? Can we write a letter or request a study to be done or question by Bristol was taken off the list?

Dave Rackliffe – Reworld said that we could implement HCL continuous monitoring in its incinerator stack. Why can't DEEP mandate continuous monitoring of HCL and Hg?

Theresa Hopkins-Staton – Is Bristol considered an EJ Community if they are within the 5-year grace period?

Ian McDonald – Things go through the permitting processes (Killingly Generating Power Plant and Putnam Ash landfill) – what is the monitoring regime for these plants? Once the permit is approved, you want to know more concretely what happens.

4. Next Steps

List of Participants:

Terry Adams

Adrienne Houel

Francis Pickering

Marc Gonzalez

Melissa Craig

jodie maro

Florence Dowler

Linda Cyrulik

Diane Lauricella

Susan Eastwood

Aaron Goode

Pallavi Mande

Ian McDonald

Patricia Houser

Paul O Robertson

Dave Rackliffe

Pat Egan

B. Preston

susan halpern

Antoinette Quagliata

david Fortier
Mark Mitchell
Laura Cahn
Peggy Tibbals

Theresa Hopkins-Staten
Desen Ozkan
Antoinette Quagliata
Mike Ewall