



**State Of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection
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Report on Environmental Permitting by the Department of Environmental Protection July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000

Arthur J. Rocque, Jr., Commissioner

Date: September 25, 2000

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INTRODUCTION

The Department of Environmental Protection has prepared the following report as an update of the status of its environmental permitting programs in accordance with Section 22a-6r of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS). As outlined in CGS Section 22a-6r, this report contains information on permit applications received, permit decisions, and permit application fee revenues. The report provides a snapshot of the permitting workload as well as a brief description of ongoing efforts to improve the delivery of services. As required by law this report is being respectfully submitted to the Governor and joint standing committees of the general assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and the Department of Economic and Community Development.

PERMIT APPLICATION STATISTICS

DEP Permit Application Summary Data (SFY 99/00)

The following tables summarize application and permit activity, as recorded in the Permit Application Management System (PAMS), for state fiscal year 99/00, for all applications received since January 1, 1996.

SFY 99/00 Statistics

Table 1

Bureau		Applications Received	Permits Issued	Applications Closed¹	Pending on 6/30/00
Air	GenPt ²	496	330	494	162
	Indiv.	305	196	294	516
Office of Long Island Sound Programs					
Office of Long Island Sound Programs	GenPt	38	18	25	21
	Indiv.	127	99	118	167
	COP ³	183	140	161	54
Water					
Water	GenPt	729	541	658	327
	Indiv.	339	234	302	591
Waste					
Waste		846	792	875	264
All DEP					
All DEP		3063	2350	2927	2102

1 Applications Closed represents the total number of applications that were closed including: permits issued; applications which are withdrawn, rejected for insufficiency, or denied on the technical merits of the application; and applications which were received but no permit is required.

2 GenPt = General Permit registrations

3 COP = Certificate of Permission

Average Processing Times

Table 2

Average Time in Days							
Bureau	Sufficiency Decision	Sufficiency After Notice of Insufficiency	Tentative Determination (N.B. this statistic only includes individual permit applications)	Issue Permit DEP Time	Issue Permit Total Time	Close Application DEP Time	Close Application Total Time
Air	56	8	192	107	142	149	191
OLISP	47	36	66	141	201	144	203
Water	37	23	224	92	127	208	285
Waste	60	15	311	51	58	81	92
All DEP ⁴	44	19	145	87	115	147	193

Timeliness

Table 3

Bureau	On Schedule (vs. Plan)	On Schedule (vs. Revised)
Air	60%	72%
OLISP	61%	76%
Water	71%	79%
Waste	78%	90%
All DEP	70%	81%

⁴ All DEP averages are weighted averages.

Permit Related Revenue Information

CGS Section 22a-6r states that the Commissioner shall provide the following permit-related revenue information:

- C an identification of revenues received from permit application fees and any revenues derived from the processing of such applications as set forth in Chapter 439 of the General Statutes;
- C the Department's appropriation from the general fund for permitting activities; and
- C the number and amount of permit application fees refunded.

Revenues Received from Permit Application Fees and Any Revenues Derived from the Processing of Such Applications*	
7/1/99 - 6/30/00	\$1,759,859

* These figures represent permit application, processing and public notice fees. They do not include annual fees and other registration fees such as medical and industrial X-ray, pesticide registrations, UST's, property transfer, LEP, etc.

General Fund Appropriation*	
7/1/99 - 6/30/00	\$791,417

* There is no specific state budget appropriation for department permit programs. This figure reflects actual expenses, drawn from the general fund, for air, water, and waste permitting and enforcement staff.

Amount of Permit Application Fees Refunded*
Application Fees Refunded for a Total of \$34,445

* Refunds reflect withdrawn applications, duplicate fees, etc.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS⁵

The Department of Environmental Protection continues to make every effort to improve the way it carries out its mission. On an on-going basis the DEP strives to improve the permit application process, a key tool in regulating environmental activities. Activities of note during the fiscal year 99/00 include the following:

Fostering communications and customer service:

- C The Department continues to work closely with stakeholders through advisory committees particularly as they relate to air quality, effluent trading, solid waste management planning, reduction of mercury in the environment, and aquifer protection.
- C The Department continues to partner with business and trade groups to provide information at major trade conferences, co-sponsored numerous workshops and seminars, and has redoubled its efforts to meet with municipal officials throughout Connecticut.
- C The Permit Assistance Office provides one-on-one assistance, this year helping more than 4600 customers.
- C The Department continues to foster urban revitalization through permitting and remediation assistance provided to major development projects in our cities. Projects that DEP has worked closely on include but are not limited to the Adriaen's Landing project in Hartford, waterfront redevelopment projects in Bridgeport, New Haven, and New London, and the UCONN Stadium project in East Hartford.
- C The Department is finalizing regulations describing the time frames for permit application processing. Public notice and comment on these regulations is expected to take place this fall.

Monitoring the appropriate use of general permits:

- C As part of DEP's ongoing efforts to assess the effectiveness of its use of general permits, the department applied for and received an EPA grant. Under this grant, DEP has hired a contractor to objectively measure the compliance rate of registrants of select general permits. An action strategy will be developed based on this information.

⁵ A summary of the history of the Department's permit streamlining actions is available in the 1997 version of this report. For further information please see *Report on Environmental Permitting by the Department of Environmental Protection, July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997*" (dated August 25, 1997).

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- C The Department continues to rely on the development and implementation of general permits to efficiently regulate minor activities and to put into place best management practices for these activities. The Department is capitalizing on its earlier experience with general permits and has begun to modify existing general permits and develop new general permits for additional minor activities. Examples include:
- C Revising the Recycling general permit to accommodate the federal used oil regulations and to add consumer electronics, other batteries and fluorescent bulbs.
 - C Drafting a general permit for miscellaneous minor discharges to sanitary sewers.
 - C Development of a ground water remediation general permit to allow discharges to surface waters thereby reducing the need for emergency authorizations.
 - C Updating the vehicle maintenance general permit to be more inclusive of related activities such as car washing, auto detailing and other vehicle services.
 - C Working with an advisory group to develop a concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) general permit.
 - C Working with the Department of Public Health to finalize a household water treatment general permit.

Some recent accomplishments of note in the Air Bureau:

- C The Air Bureau has accelerated the issuance of Title V permits to comply with an EPA mandate. To date 16 permits have been issued, 19 are out to public notice, and nine are drafted and under review. The Air Bureau is on target for completing the issuance of all pending applications by December 2001. Title V permits are issued under the Clean Air Act to major stationary sources and enable the Department to conduct a comprehensive, facility-wide evaluation of all air emission sources. Title V permits also require a periodic demonstration of compliance as well as an annual certification of compliance with the applicable terms and conditions. Title V permits have a maximum life of five years and will be reevaluated upon renewal.
- C The Air Bureau continues to process permits for new, high efficiency, combined cycle, merchant power plants. The Air Bureau has already permitted 1880 MW of new, clean generating capacity in the State. These power plants burn clean natural gas as their primary fuel. It is expected that these plants will decrease reliance on older, dirtier sources of power in the region. Four such power plants have now been granted air permits; others are under review. The Department has approached each of these merchant power plant projects from a multi-media perspective to ensure the greatest level of overall environmental protection.

- C The Air Bureau is providing support to EPA's Environmental Technology Verification--ETV--program. The purpose of the ETV program is to verify the actual performance of commercially available, innovative, technical solutions to problems that threaten human health or the environment. The Air Bureau has hosted an agency-wide presentation on the ETV evaluation process and has participated in a panel discussion on current, important environmental issues such as the monitoring and control of emissions of mercury and nitrogen oxides. The Air Bureau also has a representative on the subcommittee for Advanced Monitoring Systems.

Some recent accomplishments of note in the Office of Long Island Sound Programs:

- The Department proposed amended language to The Coastal Management Act. This change, enacted as Section 1 of Public Act 00-152, promotes the revitalization of inner city urban harbors and waterfronts by encouraging the appropriate reuse of historically developed shorefronts.
- Staff resources have been reallocated and overtime has been utilized to reduce the number of pending permit applications and speed up permit processing times.

Some recent accomplishments of note in the Waste Bureau:

- C The Waste Engineering & Enforcement Division implemented a compliance assistance initiative for municipal facilities that included several on-site audits. As a follow-up to these audits, information packages, including a Municipal Public Works Guidance Document, were mailed to all 169 municipalities during the Summer, 1999. This information supports efforts by the municipalities to comply with regulatory requirements and promotes best management practices. In June 2000, DEP participated in three one-day multi-media conferences in Storrs, Waterbury and Hartford that explained regulatory requirements and best management practices to municipal public works garages.
- C CGS Section 22a-208y allows the DEP to approve a Special Waste Disposal Plan that identifies certain special wastes that may be accepted for disposal without obtaining a separate permit each time a covered special waste is handled. These plans identify uniform procedures for the screening, testing, acceptance, record-keeping, handling, and disposal of certain special waste categories to be used by Resources Recovery Facilities located in Connecticut. The categories authorized under the Plan are 1) industrial solids, which include commodity wastes, paints/plastic/rubber, oily waste streams/oil contaminated debris, industrial wastes, and printing wastes; 2) bulky waste/construction and demolition (C&D) wood, which include demolition wastes, processed C&D wood, and oversize municipal solid waste and 3) special handling, such as pharmaceutical wastes and contraband. The facilities which have Solid Waste Plans include; Bridgeport RESCO in Bridgeport; Riley Energy Systems in Lisbon; American Ref-Fuel in Preston; and Ogdgen Products of Wallingford.

Some recent accomplishments of note in the Water Bureau:

- C The Water Bureau furthered its realignment to watershed management by reorganizing the Permitting, Enforcement and Remediation Division. Core activities of the industrial permitting and enforcement section are now organized along the following watersheds: Connecticut River Basin; Housatonic and Western Coastal Basins; and Thames River and Central Coastal Basin. This realignment allows for better coordination with other bureau and department watershed management activities. Staff in the remediation programs has also been reorganized along geographic lines into the Eastern, North Central, South Central, Southwest and Northwest Remediation districts. Both functional areas have also created Program Support and Outreach groups.

Improving the Use of Technology - The Department continues its commitment to using computer technology and the Internet to improve interaction and delivery of information to all our constituencies. Last year the Department kicked off an information integration and improvement project now known as the *Environmental Data and Geographic Exchange (EDGE) Project*.

The project's key purpose is to improve and expand access to sound environmental information for internal and external customers, and ensure that the procedures for obtaining, analyzing, storing and accessing data are as efficient and effective as possible. The primary objectives of this project are to:

- C *Develop and implement the capability to integrate all information related to common facilities, sites or individuals using a Common Facility Identifier (CFI)*. The CFI will be the key to integrating existing data, and will provide opportunities for the seamless exchange and sharing of information. Used in conjunction with an enhanced Geographic Information System (GIS), the CFI will enable us to integrate corporate and facility data with geographic and ambient data, providing the scientific information and analytical tools necessary for sound environmental decision-making, improving overall information quality, and allowing for access to the data using either alphanumeric queries or geographic searches.
- C *Capitalize on burden reduction opportunities (electronic tools, applications and reporting)*. Tools are being evaluated to improve data collection, data evaluation, trend analysis, business processes, reporting, and decision making. Other developments will provide for overall document management, and electronic submissions of permit applications, periodic compliance reports, monitoring data, and incident reporting.

- C *Enhance public access to environmental performance data.* Improved access to environmental information enables citizens to be involved and informed environmental decision-makers. Enhancement of the agency's web site will further DEP's ability to communicate to the public the state's efforts to preserve and protect the environment and provide applicants the necessary permitting information on a 7 day/ 24 hour basis. Permit related information now generates over 2000 "web hits" per month with over 800 forms or guidance documents being downloaded each month. Through the Connecticut Licensing Information Center (CLIC) site, DEP provides seamless access to environmental licensing information from a centralized State run "front page".

Continuous improvement of the environmental permit application process continues to be a top priority in the department. If anyone has questions or needs further information on the department's efforts please contact either Tom Tyler at (860) 424-3001 or Bob Kaliszewski at (860) 424-3003.