



**State Of Connecticut  
Department of Environmental Protection  
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**Report on Environmental Permitting by the  
Department of Environmental Protection  
July 1, 1998 through June 30, 1999**

**Arthur J. Rocque, Jr., Commissioner**

Date: September 16, 1999

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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 98/99)

The following tables summarize application and permit activity, as recorded in the Permit Application Management System (PAMS), for state fiscal year 98/99, for all applications received since January 1, 1996.

SFY 98/99 Statistics

Table 1

Bureau		Applications Received	Permits Issued	Applications Closed <sup>1</sup>	Pending on 6/30/99
Air	GenPt <sup>2</sup>	497	489	640	202
	Indiv.	354	209	342	550
Office of Long Island Sound Programs	GenPt	37	25	35	10
	Indiv.	145	85	111	188
	COP <sup>3</sup>	169	78	131	67
Water	GenPt	803	683	787	207
	Indiv.	401	236	326	690
Waste		889	793	865	237
All DEP		3295	2598	3237	2151

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Closed represents the total number of applications that were closed including: permits issued; applications which are withdrawn, rejected for insufficiency, or denied on the technical merits of the application; and applications which were received but no permit is required.

<sup>2</sup> GenPt = General Permit registrations

<sup>3</sup> 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
<b>Air</b>	41	6	171	122	157	141	169
<b>OLISP</b>	58	21	79	106	161	107	149
<b>Water</b>	34	21	206	69	106	143	178
<b>Waste</b>	70	17	238	48	54	58	66
<b>All DEP<sup>4</sup></b>	41	17	151	79	107	116	142

**Timeliness**

**Table 3**

Bureau	On Schedule (vs. Plan)	On Schedule (vs. Revised)
<b>Air</b>	61%	68%
<b>OLISP</b>	85%	90%
<b>Water</b>	73%	81%
<b>Waste</b>	81%	86%
<b>All DEP</b>	73%	80%

<sup>4</sup> All DEP averages are weighted averages.

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### 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.

<b>Revenues Received from Permit Application Fees and Any Revenues Derived from the Processing of Such Applications*</b>	
7/1/98 - 6/30/99	\$2,206,030

\* 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.

<b>General Fund Appropriation*</b>	
7/1/98 - 6/30/99	\$1,038,331

\* 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.

<b>Number and Amount of Permit Application Fees Refunded*</b>	
Application Fees Refunded for a Total of \$38,807	

\* Refunds reflect withdrawn applications, duplicate fees, etc.

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## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS<sup>5</sup>

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 98/99 include the following:

### **Fostering communications and customer service:**

- C The Department continues to work closely with stakeholders through the air, waste, and water advisory committees. Some of the major issues discussed this past year included emission and 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 Permits Assistance Office provided one-on-one assistance to over 4500 customers.
- C For the past four years, the Department has worked with members of the Hartford community to address environmental concerns and identify pollution prevention opportunities in two primarily African-American and Hispanic neighborhoods. The Hartford Neighborhood Environmental Project lays the groundwork for ongoing environmental achievements in these communities. This community-based project focuses on the places in which residents live, work and play. This year the project conducted an Earth Day Conference for nearly 300 adults and children in the community and provided training on environmental management systems to local hospitals.
- 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 Learning Corridor and Riverfront Recapture projects in Hartford, waterfront redevelopment projects in Bridgeport, New Haven, and New London, and the Juvenile Detention facility in Middletown.

### **Monitoring the appropriate use of general permits:**

- C In 1998, for the first time, the number of activities registered under a general permit exceeded the number of those activities regulated by an individual permit. This year Connecticut became one of eight states to be considered for funding as part of a compliance measurement pilot project sponsored

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<sup>5</sup> 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 *AReport on Environmental Permitting by the Department of Environmental Protection, July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997*" (dated August 25, 1997).

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by EPA. The proposal submitted by CT DEP will develop statistically valid baseline compliance rates for select general permits and evaluate the effectiveness of compliance assistance and enforcement on overall compliance with general permits.

- C In February, the Department reissued the general permit for non-contact cooling and heat pump wastewater. This permit was modified to make it less burdensome on users and to streamline the registration requirements, while still being protective of the environment and human health. Many of these improvements are the direct result of last year's compliance audit of this general permit.
- C The Department developed a general permit and best management practices for the incorporation of grass at certain registered leaf composting facilities to facilitate compliance with the legislative ban on grass disposal at landfills and resource recovery facilities.
- C The recycling general permit is in the process of being revised to allow for the collection and recycling of household hazardous wastes such as mercury containing lamps, certain batteries and consumer electronics.

**Some recent accomplishments of note in the Air Bureau:**

- C The Air Bureau has begun to issue the first Title V permits. Permit issuance under Title V of the Clean Air Act enables the Department to conduct a holistic evaluation of all emission sources at major facilities. The permits also require the periodic demonstration of compliance with all permit limits and a reevaluation upon renewal every five years.
- C This year the Air Bureau issued construction permits for two, new, high efficiency, combined cycle, merchant power plants. These power plants are permitted to 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. Similar projects are currently under review and several of them propose using air cooling versus water cooling technology which will reduce the demand for local water resources. 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 also developing a model rule for Generating Performance Standards (GPS) and the New England Tracking System (NETS). The model rule, which will limit the amount of air pollution emitted per megawatt of electricity produced, was developed in association with Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) and Massachusetts for regulating electricity retailers and is designed to ensure that air quality in Connecticut does not deteriorate because of deregulation.

**Some recent accomplishments of note in the Waste Bureau:**

- C The Bureau of Waste Management issued Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Use permits for the former city landfill at Silver Sands in Milford. This has allowed for use of this area as a beach with a boardwalk, new access road and artificial sand dunes. The capped portion of the landfill is presently used as a parking area.
- C Special Waste Plan approvals for four Resource Recovery Facilities (RRF) were issued in February to streamline the Special Waste Authorization process. CGS Section 22a-208y allows the Commissioner to approve a plan that identifies categories of special wastes that a RRF may accept for disposal. These approved special wastes include commodity wastes, pharmaceutical wastes, plastic / rubber wastes, oily waste debris, industrial wastes, printing wastes, wood wastes and contraband wastes. Before these approved plans, individual approvals were required.
- C The construction permits for the new ash landfill in Putnam were modified to provide for an alternative access road, removing traffic from the local neighborhood road system.
- C The Department has authorized a temporary demonstration project by the Thermostat Recycling Corporation for the region-wide collection of mercury-containing thermostats. This collection will be authorized through the Universal Waste Rule, once revision to the state hazardous waste rules are adopted.

**Some recent accomplishments of note in the Water Bureau:**

- C The US EPA recognized the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative (NRWI) as a national and state model watershed-based, voluntary, community partnership geared toward resource protection. The DEP is working in partnership with the communities and organizations in the Norwalk River watershed to set the standard for future watershed efforts within the state. Last fall, the NRWI committee issued its watershed action plan. A DEP watershed coordinator will work with the Norwalk River Action Plan Advisory Committee to begin implementing the plan.
- C Work continues to restore water quality, open fish passageways, and improve habitat in the Naugatuck River. Recent dam removals and the reconstruction work underway at the Waterbury sewage treatment plant are critical to the restoration of this valuable river and aquatic resource.

**Improving the Use of Technology** - The Department has made a major commitment to using computer technology and the Internet to improve interaction and delivery of information to all our constituencies.

- C The Department kicked off the Information Integration and Improvement Project (I-3) to improve and expand access to sound environmental information for both internal and external customers. For further information, refer to the fact sheet in Appendix 1.
- C The availability of permitting information was expanded to 7 day/ 24 hour access via the internet.

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Permit related information now generates over 2000 “web hits” per month with over 800 forms or guidance documents being downloaded each month.

- C DEP remains a primary participant in the statewide “High Efficiency Licensing Program” project led by the Office of Policy and Management. DEP permitting information can be easily accessed through links from the State’s master licensing database on the Connecticut Licensing Information Center (CLIC) site, allowing seamless access to environmental licensing information from a centralized State run “front page”.
  
- C The Small Business Assistance Program and the Air Bureau, in cooperation with UCONN’s Environmental Research Institute, is developing a CD-ROM for small businesses and state agencies on new source review and Title V permitting requirements. The software will have the capability to perform emissions calculations for criteria and hazardous air pollutants and will pre-fill permit application forms.

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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.





**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Arthur J. Rocque, Jr.  
Commissioner**

**June 1999**

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**Information Integration and Improvement Project**

Background: The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) new information integration and improvement project will renovate DEP's information management resources to better support the State and EPA mission of protecting the environment. The project will also 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.

Goal: Design and implement a comprehensive environmental information management system which will provide the necessary infrastructure for DEP to integrate agency information and business processes across program and organizational lines and provide one-stop access to environmental information.

Objectives of the Project:

- C *Develop and implement the capability to integrate all information related to common facilities, sites or individuals utilizing a Common Facility Identifier (CFI) - The CFI will provide the foundation for integrating existing systems and building new multi-media systems components, and provide opportunities for the seamless exchange and sharing of information.*
- C *Capitalize on burden reduction opportunities (electronic tools, applications and reporting) - The development of an integrated information management system will make use of electronic tools which will have the capability to provide increased efficiencies to the regulated community, especially small businesses. Future developments will provide for the electronic submission of permit applications, periodic compliance reports, monitoring data, and incident reporting. This capability will provide a valuable link for the agency to Governor Rowland's High Efficiency Licensing Program.*
- 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.*
- C *Employ an inclusive stakeholder process that will represent internal and external interests. The process will foster enterprise-wide participation. As part of the stakeholder process, DEP will ensure that local government, industry, environmental and other public interest groups, as well as the general public have an opportunity to participate.*

Strategies:

- C Establish an organizational structure to develop and implement the project.
  - C Develop a comprehensive strategic plan to reform information management agency-wide.
  - C Establish a common facility identifier.
  - C Design and implement multi-media Enforcement Case Management System.
  - C Conduct a document management and file storage system assessment.
  - C Develop a quality assurance and quality control plan detailing information management procedures to be designed into each phase of the overall system.
  - C Continue to enhance efforts to support electronic reporting and the development of electronic tools.
  - C Develop on-line commerce capabilities for the DEP bookstore as part of the Governor's One-Stop Program.
  - C Implement a statewide integrated campground reservation system based on Internet and/or phone access.
  - C Develop and distribute a CD-ROM for small businesses on New Source Review and Title V permitting requirements. Software will have the capability to perform emissions calculations for criteria and hazardous air pollutants and pre-fill permit application forms.
  - C Continue efforts to improve and enhance the Geographic Information System (GIS).
  - C Continue the comprehensive business needs analysis including integration of strategic planning, information management, and environmental performance measurement systems.
  - C Continue website development for public access of information.
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