

Good evening,

The Department is looking forward to receiving the Working Group comments on the first draft of the release-based regulations. As a reminder, the due date for comments was extended from February 29th to **close of business March 7th** to provide for the requested question and answer session. As a reminder, the Department will be reviewing these comments and working on a new draft of these regulations, which we will share with the Working Group this spring.

DEEP is also excited to share that last Friday we kicked off the **20By26** initiative. This initiative is based on our successful 20BY20 initiative and is a new iteration of this performance improvement initiative that pushes DEEP to increase transparency, predictability, and efficiency in our programs. I am mentioning 20BY26, as our shared effort to adopt a set of release-based regulations that finally sunsets the Transfer Act is Goal #1. You can read our [20By26 kick off report](#) for more information on a fresh set of sixteen goals to be achieved by the end of 2026 and find out how you can suggest ideas for the four additional 20BY26 goals.

The state launched 20BY26 in Waterbury Friday and highlighted Goal #1 during that event. Our press release on the event can be found [here](#). The Hartford Business Journal covered the event – highlighting the release-based regulation status. If you’ve seen the article, you will have seen that I stressed the Working Group’s importance to get us to this first critical step and to continue to aid the agency is improving these regulations, as we meet with you monthly. Below is an excerpt for the article.

DEEP's 20BY26 Goals

20BY26 Goal 1:

ADOPT RELEASE-BASED REGULATIONS TO MODERNIZE CONNECTICUT'S CLEANUP FRAMEWORK

Because clear standards are needed for environmental cleanups



What We Achieved in 20BY20:

Timely audit decisions for Transfer Act sites (*Goal 4*) and finalized revisions to Remediation Standard Regulations and Environmental Use Restrictions Regulations (*Goal 5*)



Building on Our Success in 20BY26:

Secure formal adoption of Release-Based Regulations

DEEP staff say input from the working group has been crucial, and will continue to help shape the new rules well beyond March 7.

“Their feedback has been critical,” said Emma Cimino, deputy commissioner of environmental quality for DEEP. “They are the industry insiders. They are the folks on the ground. And this work we have done, this transition, would not be possible without their input and their input is ongoing.”

We look forward to your comments and your on-going engagement. Also, as we broaden the conversation on these regulations, if you can suggest membership groups that may benefit from hearing about these regulations, please let us know. Thanks to your invitations, DEEP was able to conduct the following outreach and we look forward to future invitations over the next many months.

Organization	Date
Connecticut Environmental Forum	January 3, 2024
Environmental Professionals of Connecticut	January 16, 2024
Connecticut Business and Industry Association	January 18, 2024
Transition Advisory Group Meeting	January 22, 2024

CT Bar Association, Environment and Real Property Sections	January 25, 2024
Transition Advisory Group Meeting	January 26, 2024
CT Society for Women Environmental Professionals	February 1, 2024
Subcommittee 1	February 1, 2024
Transition Advisory Group Meeting	February 2, 2024
Real Estate Finance Association of Connecticut/Building Owners and Managers Association	February 15, 2024
Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast	February 27, 2024
Subcommittee 6	February 27, 2024
Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut	February 29, 2024
Subcommittee 8	February 29, 2024

At our next meeting on March 12, 2024, DEEP will be discussing high-level take themes from the Working Group comments, and schedule and topics for upcoming Working Group meetings.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Best,

Emma

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*Conserving, improving, and protecting our natural resources and environment;
 Ensuring a clean, affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy supply.*

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