



Release Based Office Hours Q&A *Session 3*

May 20, 2026

Presented/prepared by: Remediation Division

Training Disclaimer

The following information was shared by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection on May 20, 2026. This presentation is intended to be an overview of the Release Based Cleanup Regulations (RBCRs) Sections 22a-134tt-1 through 22a-134tt-13 inclusive, and 22a-134tt-App1 through 22a-134tt-App12, which became effective on March 1, 2026. This presentation is designed to answer general questions and provide basic information. You should refer to the appropriate statute or regulation for specific language. It is your responsibility to comply with all applicable laws and regulations. The information contained in this presentation is intended only to acquaint you with the RBCRs and does not constitute the Department's interpretation of the applicable laws and regulations.

For case studies, please note that they are hypothetical scenarios tailored specifically for training purposes.

Housekeeping

Today's goal is to have open discussion in support of understanding the RBCRs.

To support a respectful environment and hopefully allow time for all content to be discussed, please:

Place questions into Q&A (this helps track for responses if not answered today)

Raise hand for follow-up questions or discussion

Please keep questions to the topics discussed today; other questions can be submitted through Q&A for future consideration

Stay muted unless called upon

Multiple Lines of Evidence

Do multiple lines need to be present for a condition to be reportable, or must only one line be present to be reportable?

The term "Multiple lines of evidence" relates to discovery. Reportability is based on concentrations relative to cleanup criteria (or the lack of criteria) or the presence of NAPL. In the absence of analytical data or observed presence of NAPL, more than one line of evidence is needed for discovery; however, at the point of decision, there is rarely only one line of evidence. Historical information can be one of those lines if there is also a current line of evidence. A release can still be "discovered" through multiple lines of evidence, without environmental sampling & lab analysis.

Can you explain how multiple lines of evidence aren't just one piece of evidence from a list of potential lines of evidence that would trigger discovery?

There is rarely only one line of evidence leading to any discovery. Each discrete piece of information (odor, nature of odor, staining, color, use of the area) are all lines of evidence. For example, the strong odor of gasoline in soil constitutes multiple lines of evidence and warrants discovery. The bottom line is, does the collective observable evidence suggest that soil or groundwater could be impacted? If the answer is yes, there is no reason to try to count the lines of evidence.

Multiple Lines of Evidence

If soil contamination is already known to be present at a property (pre Mar. 1, 2026). As part of new development, the known contamination will need to be remediated. Does digging up the known contaminated soils constitute discovery which now must be reported under the new regulations (assumes remediation performed after Mar. 1, 2026)?

The action of digging up soil does not constitute discovery; however, either of the following related to the remediation would be:

- (1) if there is any soil sampling done for the purposes of off-site disposal
- (2) if there are multiple lines of evidence that would indicate a release

Multiple Lines of Evidence

Scenario: There is equipment dripping less than 10 gallons of oil onto a floor over a joint expansion inside and the oil was cleaned up with speedy dry - does this on a regular basis over time. Does the observation of the oil on the floor, combined with the expansion joint represent two lines of evidence? As an "existing release." Does that then compel investigating soils below the floor to determine concentration and volume of soil impacted (characterization) - to determine if it is reportable?

1. Equipment dripping onto floor.
 2. The substance leaking is oil.
 3. It isn't just minor staining; it is an ongoing leak, so oil or oil-soaked speedy dry is always in contact with the floor. It's never really cleaned up.
 4. There is also a floor joint that provides a direct pathway to soil under the slab.
 5. If this is a continual leak, it's not clear how it can be determined to be less than 10 gallons. At any given moment, there may not be 10 gallons on the floor, but the leak never really stops.
- As to the reportability, the evidence is sufficient to warrant discovery, and unless sampling is conducted, it would be reportable based on the multiple lines of evidence alone.

Discovery After Verification

Do releases that were closed in a site-wide verification report need to be rediscovered and reported under the RBCRs if those areas are sampled again in the future (e.g., during due diligence investigations)?

RCSA 22a-134tt-12(5) [Closure Report] states that, if a release is remediated to the standards specified by Chapter 445b of the CGS, and the land and waters of the state impacted by the release remain in the condition and subject to the controls specified by the closure report, **no further action** regarding such release shall be required.

This includes eliminating the need for discovery and reporting if this same release were sampled again in the future for some reason (as long as conditions haven't changed). A verification report serves as such a closure report for any release addressed by that report.

Filing Cabinet Exemption

Is information in the 'file cabinet' one of the multiple lines of evidence?

If information in the file cabinet from before March 1, 2026, is the only line of evidence, it does not result in discovery. However, yes, information in the file cabinet dated before March 1, 2026, can be a line of evidence supporting discovery if there is also a line of evidence from March 1, 2026, or later.

Filing Cabinet Exemption

A person that created or is maintaining a release has knowledge of historical information indicative of some level of pollution on the property from before March 1, 2026 (i.e., a soil test from years ago). Does this mean that this information alone does not constitute discovery under the RCBR? Can this information be used in tandem with other current information to constitute discovery?

If information in the file cabinet from before March 1, 2026, is the only line of evidence, it does not result in discovery. Information in the file cabinet dated before March 1, 2026, can be an additional line of evidence supporting discovery if there is an additional line of evidence dated March 1, 2026, or later. This can be one of the multiple lines of evidence.

Tiering

If you take the bridge route and end up having to tier multiple release areas, are you then subject to individual annual fees for each release?

You can group the releases under one tier, at the highest tier.

Permit by Rule + Tiers

Please clarify whether there are annual fees to take advantage of the permit by rule. Permit by rule sites appear to go to tier 2, subject of the annual fee structure.

While in Tier 2 you will be paying annual fees. Permit by rule (both versions) allow for compliance with the soil criteria (either DEC/PMC or just DEC depending on which one) and then the site can be verified (for PTP) or a Release Remediation Closure Report can be submitted (for RBCRs). If it helps, think of it as a version of an EUR (an institutional control that allows use of certain compliance provisions).

APS

Calculations for reporting obligations for additional polluting substances?

Please confirm that for additional polluting substances, two times reporting calculations and calculations for lower bounds can be conducted without formal DEEP approval to use additional polluting substances criteria at a specific release area or parcel.

Section 22a-134tt-3(a)(2)(A)(iii) specifies the use of additional polluting substances (APS) criteria calculated in accordance with the RBCRs (which includes criteria on the Fast Track form or in technical support guidance). Such APS criteria do not require Department approval prior to use of the criteria for the purpose of determining if a release is reportable.

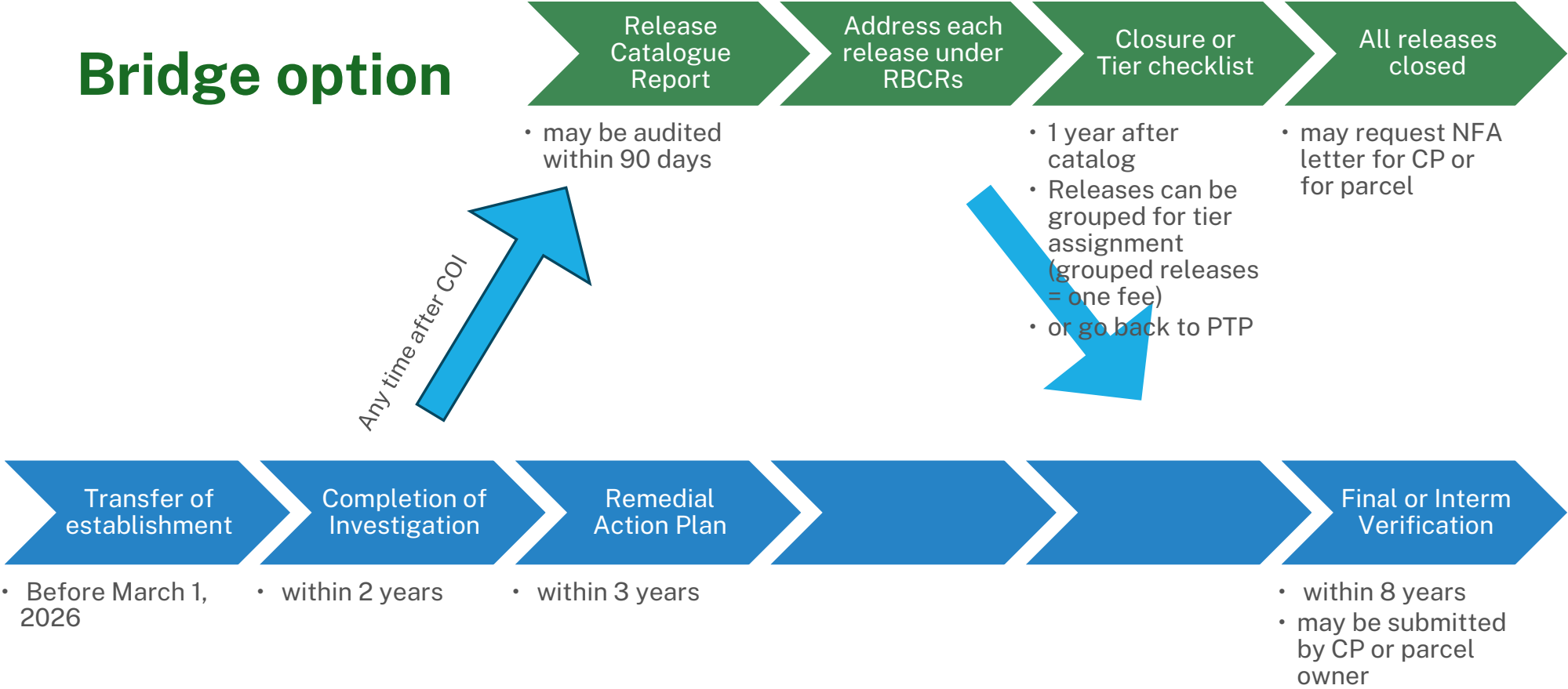
Other Exemptions

RBCRs were developed with the intention to provide more "off-ramps" for demonstrating compliance, while casting a larger net. As such, it is confusing that exemptions in 22a-134tt-1(i) are not available to a site in the PTP. Can you explain why this is not permitted and where to find in the new regulations?

The exemptions to discovery in 22a-134tt-1(i) are specific to the RBCRs, outlining situations where a release **has not been discovered**. For the PTP, those releases have already been discovered and there are provisions in the cleanup sections for demonstrating compliance with them. For example, incidental sources are not discovered under the RBCP, but incidental sources are releases that don't need to be remediated to comply under the PTP.

However, there is an option to bridge a PTP site into the RBCP, if there is a wish to use the discovery exemptions built into the RBCP.

BRIDGE TO RELEASE-BASED PROGRAM



22a-133x

I have a site in 22a-133x that is close to Verification. Can I complete the compliance groundwater sampling and verification report under this program (like the PTP) or do I need to move the site into the new Voluntary Parcel-Wide Cleanup Program?

You may continue to work under 133x, but be aware of RBCR reporting requirements. Once you take environmental samples and receive data, that may constitute discovery requiring you to report within the applicable time requirements. If you can complete your compliance sampling and submit the verification before the reporting requirement timeline, you will not have to report and can submit the verification as usual.

Will verifications still be accepted for 22a-133x voluntary program sites after 1 MAR 2026? What about for a 22a-133x site for which an Interim Verification had been filed prior to 1 MAR 2026?

Yes, to both scenarios. However if you discover any releases you must report and cleanup under the RBCRs unless you are able to verify before your reporting deadline.

PTP Related

What if there was a property transaction prior to March 1, 2026 that was subject to the Property Transfer Act but there is no filing on record? What if this property is transferred in the future?

A Property Transfer filing still need to be filed and dated to the date of the pre-March 1, 2026 transfer.

Nothing prevents a new property owner acquiring after March 1, 2026 from enrolling the property in the Voluntary Parcel-Wide Cleanup program and pursuing the previous owners for their failure to file.

Complete Phase II and Other Forms

Do annual reports, VRs, COI, RAPs, etc., count as "SEH status reports" if they address the SEH?

No. SEH status reports must address the controlled hazard condition. If there is a status update for a hazard embedded in a PTP report, it might be missed upon review. Please submit the SEH status update individually, under the SEH Case in REACT.

If you submit your report as anything else, it will not fulfill the SEH milestone requirement in REACT.

22a-133y

If we have a 22a-133y site which we have ongoing groundwater monitoring, do we have to report groundwater data exceeding criteria that is created after 1 MAR 2026?

Yes. The 22a-133y program is not active any longer.

You can or have to enroll in the new parcel wide if you're in 22a-133y?

Yes, if you would like to complete a parcel wide clean up.

22A-133Y

Will a completed ECAF suffice to enroll a site that is currently in the 133y program into the Parcel-Wide VRP?

Yes. Complete an ECAF and enroll in 133y in REACT by creating a Voluntary Parcel-Wide Cleanup Case and uploading the ECAF.

The screenshot shows the 'Program Type' selection screen in the REACT system. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with steps: Acknowledge Release Reporting (checked), Select Program Type (active), Select Site, Select Parcel(s), Add Affiliations, Add Contacts, Enter Environmental Setting, Enter Environmental Concern, and Review Summary. The main content area is titled 'Program Type' with the instruction 'Select the program type you are submitting information for today.' Below this, under the heading 'Select Program Type', are two options: 'Release-Based' (with a green icon of a document and a percentage) and 'Sitewide' (with a green icon of a map). Each option includes a subtext: 'I want to enroll in a Release-Based Cleanup program' and 'I want to enroll in a Sitewide Remediation program' respectively. At the bottom, a note states: 'Select "Sitewide" for Voluntary Parcel-Wide Cleanup and all other cases except Release-Based Cleanup.' There are 'Cancel' and 'Next' buttons at the bottom of the screen.

Program Type
Select the program type you are submitting information for today.

Select Program Type

Release-Based
I want to enroll in a Release-Based Cleanup program

Sitewide
I want to enroll in a Sitewide Remediation program

Select "Sitewide" for Voluntary Parcel-Wide Cleanup and all other cases except Release-Based Cleanup.

Cancel Next

Timeframes

Are there requirements about getting lab data? 72 hours from when the consultant gets the results will be a different timeline if the samples are rush vs standard turn-around-time

The speed at which the lab runs the samples does not have any effect on the 72 hours to report because it's not a matter of the moment the samples get to the lab, but the moment the data is in the hands of the data user.

New Discoverable Releases

Scenario: I am in a groundwater monitoring phase on a project managed under the LUST program (gasoline release). 1,2-Dichloroethane was detected above the GWPC. Is this now a discoverable release under the RBCRs?

Yes because 1-2, DCE is not a breakdown product of solely a gasoline release.

Other Agency Programs

If a client has been awarded Brownfields assessment funding but no decision has been made to enter into a Brownfields program, will the RBCRs apply to these sites?

Yes. The site has not yet been accepted into a Brownfields program therefore you must report any discovered releases.

If we have a Stewardship Permit and a prior PTP filing (by prior owner), do we report or not? How about landfills regulated under a Stewardship or a Solid Waste permit or closure/post-closure plan? Need to report newly discovered releases?

Report releases not covered under your PTP filing or your Stewardship Permit. Permitted solid waste landfills have permits and/or closure/post-closure plans authorized under title 22a and are therefore exempt. The RBCRs do not apply to permitted releases. If you have a newly discovered release not related to the landfill or what is covered under your permit, then yes you must report.

Other Regulating Agencies

How will the RBCRs apply to sites undergoing an EPA-approved cleanup under TSCA and CT DEEP approved PCB cleanup that are not enrolled in any Connecticut remedial program?

For example, would the RBCR reporting, investigation, or closure requirements still apply, or would the federal TSCA remedy effectively supersede the RBCR framework?

Federal cleanup standards supersede state law; however, you will have to comply with both 40 CFR 761 requirements [for TSCA] and CT DEEP requirements [for the non-TSCA contaminants] will apply.

REACT Qs

REACT

Should ALL submittals now be through REACT (except due to file size?)

Yes.

REACT

Is the REACT system a form/format prescribed by the Commissioner?

Yes. The REACT Portal is considered a form prescribed by the Commissioner.

How does an authorized user correctly submit through REACT when submittal requires a "form prescribed by the commissioner" but no form exists?

If a form is published to the website, use that form. If the Department has not published a form for your specific submittal, please attach a formal letter explaining the purpose of your submittal and upload it to REACT. In some cases, the form is the use of REACT — questions asked in the portal constitute the electronic form.

We recently entered a new case into REACT that should be considered a Significant Environmental Release (SER) for surface soil. Does REACT automatically designate a site as an SER once the case is created and analytical data are uploaded? Does REACT notify me if additional actions are required within the system to formally report the SER condition?

create the case; explain the conditions; identify immediate actions

In REACT there are two steps to submit a Release-Based Case with a SER condition:

- **Create a new Release-Based Case for the newly discovered Existing Release in REACT**
- **To Report the SER conditions to indicate that Immediate Actions are needed, go to the Case Record Page and click "New Immediate Action" button.**



A screenshot of the REACT Case Record Page for a case named 'Test2 Release-Based'. The page has a grey header with a navigation bar containing buttons: 'New Submittal', 'Edit Case Chemicals', 'New Immediate Action' (highlighted with a red rectangle), 'Edit Affiliations', 'Edit Location', 'Add Spill Work Tickets', and 'Add Affiliations'. Below the header, a white box displays case details: 'Case Program: Release-Based', 'Case Status: Open', and 'Case Number: DCN-203779'. A pink banner with a warning icon and text states: 'Attention: This Release Requires Immediate Action. Take Steps to Achieve Progress Milestones.' Below this is a progress bar with steps: 'Investigation Started' (active), 'Investigation Completed', 'Cleanup Started', 'Soil Cleanup Complete - GW...', 'Cleanup Complete - LTS', and 'Cleanup Complete - No LTS'. The main content area has tabs for 'Details', 'Milestone Submittals', and 'Related'. The 'Details' tab is selected, showing a 'General Information' section with fields for 'Case Program' (Release-Based), 'Case Name' (Test2 Release-Based), 'Case Number' (DCN-203779), and 'Case Creation Date' (4/30/2026). On the right side, there is a 'Site Map' section with a map and a legend for 'Streets' and 'Imagery'.

5/20/2026

How do I find the right case? Where else can I find information about properties and releases?

- When in REACT, look at the Program name on the case record page.
- Look up the spill case number or the RemID or other Agency ID on other portals then search by that number.
- On DEEP's [Online Services webpage](#) you can find the link to the simple list of spill reports for **[Spills Reported to DEEP since July 1, 2022](#)**. This list also identifies general information about the oil or chemical released.
- On [CT Open Data](#) you can find downloadable datasets for [spills data from July 1, 2022 - present](#) and [spills data from July 1, 1996 - June 30, 2022](#).
- On CT Open Data you can also find a **downloadable dataset of the information in the REACT** portal. This is commonly known as the [List of Contaminated or Potentially Contaminated Sites](#).
- **Documents** related to cleanup cases are found on DEEP's [Online Document Search Portal](#) and recent documents and select past documents are also available directly in the REACT portal.
- Additional documents may also exist in the form of paper records **at [DEEP's Records Center](#) in DEEP Headquarters at 79 Elm Street, Hartford.**

Upcoming Trainings



Next Up...

Reminder: Registration for upcoming Training Available on DEEP's webpage:

REACT and Release-Based Cleanup Regulation Training

REACT Trainings

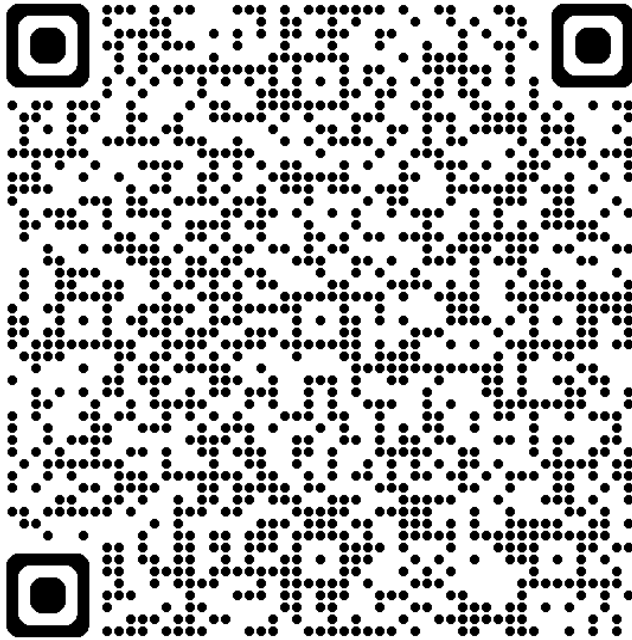
Thursday mornings

10:00 a.m. – noon

last session this Thursday, May 21

Date	Topic	Training Course	Location/Zoom Registration or Access Link	Questions & Answers
May 20, 2026, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	RBCR	RBCR Office Hours Q&A Session	Register for May 20	
June 3, 2026, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	RBCR	ERR and PCB Topics - Focused Session 13	Register for June 3	
June 10, 2026, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	RBCR	Scenarios - Focused Session 14	Register for June 10	
June 17, 2026, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	RBCR	RBCR Office Hours Q&A Session	Register for June 17	

Questions?



Questions on RBCRs and REACT portal may be submitted using this

[Question submittal tool](#) or send an email to

DEEP.ERR@ct.gov

DEEP.LeakingUST@ct.gov

DEEP.PCBProgram@ct.gov

DEEP.PEPEnforcement@ct.gov

DEEP.RemediationDivision@ct.gov

DEEP.REACT@ct.gov

Responses to submitted questions will be provided in:

- updates to Frequently Asked Questions documents,
- Q&A annexes to training courses, or
- individually if appropriate.