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Announcement
Open Meetings to Discuss Public Act 12-155
An Act Concerning Phosphorus Reductions in State Waters

To: Municipal Chief Elected Officials
Municipal Water Pollution Control Authorities and Superintendents
Other Interested Parties

From: Macky McCleary, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Date: October 23, 2012

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is pleased to announce two initial meetings to discuss the requirements of Public Act 12-155 and to discuss plans and strategies to move forward. The Act requires DEEP to collaborate with chief elected officials (or their designees) of Danbury, Meriden, Waterbury, Cheshire, Southington and Wallingford, and any other municipality impacted by the state-wide strategy to reduce phosphorus, and to collaboratively evaluate and make recommendations regarding a state-wide strategy to reduce phosphorus in order to comply with United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) standards.

In order to best frame the issues, the two initial meetings are divided by topic and scheduled as follows:

Topic- State-wide response to address phosphorus nonpoint source pollution

November 28, 2012
9-11 AM
Phoenix Auditorium
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT.

Topic- Scientific methods to measure phosphorus levels, approaches for municipalities to comply with phosphorus standards, and guidance for wastewater treatment and treatment plant upgrades

December 6, 2012
9-11 AM
Phoenix Auditorium
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT.

All interested parties are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Patty Gilmore at Patty.Gilmore@ct.gov if you plan to attend the meetings.

Background

DEEP has been working with the USEPA on a statewide nutrient control strategy for our waters. Nutrient enrichment is one of the most pressing water quality issues facing Connecticut and the nation as a whole. Excess nutrients jeopardize water quality resulting in excessive algae and aquatic plant growth (eutrophication) which impairs fish and aquatic life, recreational use and, in limited cases, can cause health concerns. Phosphorus in particular is the limiting nutrient in freshwaters in the state, is the primary cause of many water impairments, and threatens many others. As a result, the USEPA has required more aggressive action by states to limit nutrients to surface waters. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has been working with the USEPA on a statewide nutrient control strategy for our waters. The strategy uses best available science to identify phosphorus enrichment levels in waste receiving rivers and streams that adequately protect water quality. Discharges from wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) are the leading source of phosphorus to our waters, while polluted runoff (stormwater and other non-point sources) also contribute to a lesser degree.

PA 12-155 specifically requires DEEP to collaborate with towns on the following:

- a state-wide response to address phosphorus nonpoint source pollution
- scientific methods to measure current phosphorus levels and to make future projections of phosphorus levels
- approaches for municipalities to comply with standards established by the USEPA for phosphorus, including guidance for treatment and potential wastewater treatment plant upgrades.

Additional Information

The Department has posted information and materials concerning phosphorus and the proposed control strategy on our website:

http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=474130&depNav_GID=1654

Additional meetings will be scheduled to further explore these topics as necessary including possible workgroups. If you have further questions please contact the Water Protection and Land Reuse Bureau, Planning & Standards Division at 860-424-3020.