

CT DEEP's Response to Environmental Protection During Global Pandemic and Looking Forward

Environmental Professionals of Connecticut

Katie Dykes – Betsey Wingfield – Graham Stevens
Jan Czczotka – Ray Frigon

May 8, 2020



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

DEEP IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

- Virtually!
- 100% of Environmental Quality Branch staff are set up for telecommuting
- 79 Elm Street is closed to the public – but has a very small staff keeping things moving
- Our field staff is conducting inspections when they can practice appropriate social distancing
- Emergency Response active



How to Connect with DEEP

- <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/COVID-19/DEEP-COVID-19-Response>
- <https://filings.deep.ct.gov/DEEPDocumentSearchPortal/>
- Digital submittals ENCOURAGED and ESSENTIAL
- Connect with staff through email
- DEEP.RecordsCenter@ct.gov



COVID-19 Response Issues

- Outdoor Recreation
- Energy Policy & Ratepayer Relief
- Waste Management
- Enforcement Discretion
- Coordination with other states
- Environmental Impact



Outdoor Recreation

- State Park system remains open at this time
 - Indefinite closures of a small number of parks
 - Maximum parking limits have been lowered
 - Social distancing guidelines:
[https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State-Parks/COVID-19 - Updates-CT-State-Parks-and-Forests](https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State-Parks/COVID-19-Updates-CT-State-Parks-and-Forests)
- Be Bear Aware!
- Inland fishing season opened early to promote social distancing



Energy Policy & Ratepayer Relief

Emergency petition to PURA:

- Expand moratorium on shutoffs, including business customers
- Waive reconnection fees, suspend late fees & penalties
- Require utility outreach to prior disconnected customers
- Require utility payment plans options for up to 2 years post- emergency (Dkt 20-03-05)

Engagement with clean energy businesses & contractors:

- LREC/ZREC
- Energy Efficiency Fund
- Webinars on available state and federal aid
- Coordination with utility, generator, and other essential/critical facilities on continuity of operations



COVID-19 WASTE Management Response Issues

- ❑ Actively coordinating with haulers and facilities to make sure solid waste is handled
- ❑ Bottle redemption – retail redemption resuming by May 20
- ❑ Lifted fee on plastic bags – but can continue to use your reusable bags – BYO-PYO
- ❑ Tracking medical waste capacity to make sure adequate



Enforcement During COVID-19

Regulated entities are expected to comply with Connecticut's environmental laws during the public health emergency. Should, however, extenuating circumstances associated with the COVID-19 emergency prevent a regulated entity from fully complying with environmental laws, DEEP recommends that the regulated entity document in detail and communicate in writing with DEEP as soon as practicable concerning the entity's inability to achieve full compliance. DEEP's full statement on enforcement can be found on DEEP's enforcement page (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Enforcement/Enforcement>)



Coordination

- Active participation in CT Incident Command Structure
- Actively connecting with environmental leaders from New England and New York
- Looking at regional solutions and measures to insure consistency
- Weekly coordination with Region 1



Core Business is Ongoing



Transfer Act Reform Status

- ◎ 3/12/2020 – DEEP sent to co-chairs of Commerce and Environment Committees language on multi-tenant, commercial/industrial condo, business operations changes that were developed by Transfer Act Working Group subcommittee co-chairs, CBIA and DEEP
- ◎ Language for Transfer Act changes completed



Release-Based Program

- ◎ Before social distancing, DEEP had numerous meetings with stakeholders on preliminary language
- ◎ Additional work has continued, albeit with COVID-19 disruption, to address concerns raised by stakeholders
 - ◎ Includes comments consolidated by CBIA, submitted by environmental advocates, from LEPs, and with direct communication with EPOC Board
- ◎ DEEP will be ready with additional language soon, for additional stakeholder feedback



20by20



A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT IS
THE CORNERSTONE OF A

**THRIVING
ECONOMY AND
GREAT QUALITY
OF LIFE.**



THE QUALITY OF CONNECTICUT'S AIR,
LAND, AND WATER IS

**A COMPETITIVE
ADVANTAGE.**



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Audit Program & RSRs/EURs

- ◎ Transition to telework caused some initial impacts due to technology and communication issues
- ◎ Process has been adapted to telework environment and communication processes
- ◎ Credit to LEPs for smoothing transition to electronic submission of Verifications
- ◎ Work on RSRs and EURs has continued
 - ◎ Next step will be initiated in the next few weeks



PLEASE REACH OUT

katie.dykes@ct.gov

betsey.wingfield@ct.gov

graham.stevens@ct.gov

jan.czeczotka@ct.gov

raymond.frigon@ct.gov

