

Present: **17 Zoom Participants:**

The meeting began at 6:40 pm

Terry Adams opened the meeting with rules of order since there have been a lot of outbursts and disruptions:

- No personal attack against any member or guest at the NRZ meeting
- Disrupted comments/ conversations will not be permitted
- No outbursts, raise your hand

Sarah Huang the Director of Environmental Justice at DEEP (Department of Energy & Environmental Protection) joined by **Eliza Heins the DEEP Staff Attorney** gave a presentation on Environmental Justice Rulemaking:

- What is Environmental Justice in Connecticut?
- What does the law look like?
- What are the regulations?
- What public health is and how does it intersect with our States environmental justice law.

Guest Speakers:

- Jen Wang from Yale Center on Climate Change and Health.
- Devon Brown from Connecticut Department of Public Health

Overview of Agenda: [South End NRZ Indicators Activity.pdf](#)

- Rule Making Review: Sarah Huang & Eliza Heins
- Cumulative Impacts: Jen Wang
- Public Health: Devin Brown
- Environmental and Public health Indicators
- Ranking exercise that might be used in the Cumulative Impact Regulations,

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When Does EJ Law Apply?

- **DEEP Issues permits:**
 - Air
 - Waste
 - Water

Connecticut's environmental justice law, known as the Statutes 22A-20A, apply specifically to permits for affecting facilities in environmental justice communities.

Affecting Facilities:

- Electric generating facilities
- Major sources of air pollution
- Sewage treatment plants
- Sludge or solid waste incinerators or combustors
- Medical waste incinerators
- Recycling facilities
- Solid waste intermediate processing facilities

EJ Communities:

- **Two ways that you can qualify as an environmental justice community**
 - Census block group is looking at, areas of low-income persons, particularly those that are below 200% of the federal poverty level
 - Distressed municipalities a definition from Connecticut's Department of Economic and Community Development uses 9 different socioeconomic indicators that are focused on factors such as poverty and education.
 - There are special requirements for affecting facilities in an EJ Community
 - They must complete a public participation plan on how to engage local residents.
 - A Final Report showcasing what engagement was done.
- **What will the EJ Regulations do in the future?**
 - Some permit applications will have to do a Cumulative impacts analysis.

Cumulative impacts are the potential impacts of exposures to all the different things that you might see in your environment, and these are all things that can potentially harm people, as well as the environment that you live in right now.

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- Deep will be able to put conditions on permits or deny permits based on cumulative impacts.

Eliza Heins explained the rulemaking process:

Rulemaking: Statute & Regulations:

Rulemaking is the process by which government agencies create, modify, or repeal regulations. Rulemaking involves drafting proposed rules, Seeking public input, analyzing feedback, and in Connecticut, it involves approval by the Legislative Regulations Review Committee.

- The environmental justice rulemaking process is looking at The Connecticut General Statute, Section 22A, 20A. The statute gives DEEP the authority to write regulations. This law has been around since about 2008, 2009, and there are many requirements in the law itself.
- The definition of an environmental or public health stressor, which the law defines as any source of environmental pollution that causes a potential public health impact. The law gives DEEP the authority to write regulations about the identification and measurement of environmental and public health stressors across communities. DEEP authority to write cumulative impacts regulations comes again from 22A, 20A. In 2023, the legislature added this regulation to the law.

Rulemaking Timeline:

- October 1, 2023-a year building resources within DEEP
- October 2023- August 2024-holding orientation sessions with stakeholders and issuing a request for proposal for a tool that will go along with the regulations.
- September 2024-December 2025- in the middle of regulation development process
- Estimated 2026- Final public comment & review. Adoption & implementation.
- A big part of the development is holding community meetings and group sessions with regulated community environmental advocates and others.

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The Context of Stamford when thinking about environmental justice communities:

- The map ([Environmental Justice Affecting Facilities](#)) shows the affecting facilities and where they are located.
 - Spartec in light blue has an air permit
 - Stamford Transfer/ Recycling Stations has a waste permit

Question-Sue Halpern: How will this presentation help us? Why isn't the cement, asphalt plant and junkyard included on the map?

Answer-Sarah Huang: The fact that we get to write these regulations is, because of a long history of environmental justice advocates who have been pushing states and the federal government to include health impacts. As a reason for deep being able to give permits or place more stringent conditions on permits is really what this process is. We really want to learn what are the health concerns in your community and what are things that you want the state to take into consideration when they're looking at a permit application. ([Toxic Wastes and Race In the United States: A National Report on the Racial and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Communities with Hazardous Waste Sites.](#))

Great question about the facilities the map needs to be updated.

Cumulative Impacts-Jen Wang:

Cumulative impacts are the potential impact of exposures to many different things that can harm people and the environment over time.

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines cumulative impacts as the Totality of exposures to combinations of chemical and non-chemical stressors and their effects on health well-being and quality of life outcome.
 - Multiple burdens (Is there plenty of green space, natural areas, shade trees? or streams and brooks? Can kids play safely in the street, or go to a nearby park or is it mostly paved with only small patches of green space here and there?)
 - Acknowledging that these burdens are disproportionately impacted on certain communities, which are often Indigenous, people of color, and or low income.

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- The time dimension, which is acknowledging that these burdens accumulate over time which further exacerbate health and environmental disparities.

Public Health-Devin Brown:

- Public Health will educate communities about environmental hazards, lead in your home and inform you about ways to stay healthy.
- Use public health programs for bridging communities to existing healthcare resources like breast cancer screening.
- Whereas medicine is interested in treatment and the curing of patients, public health is more interested in preventing injury and illness in the first place.
- Two important public health indicators
 - Risk-the probability of harm occurring
 - Vulnerability- The ability or inability to cope with or recover from harm

Question-John Wooten: Relating to cumulative impact would DEEP be able to regulate the truck traffic to stay on main roads rather than side roads that are tight?

Answer-Sarah Huang: Trying to think of how that could be included within this process. I think that could potentially be a condition that gets placed on a permit to address the increased pollution and disruption of truck traffic. Eliza mentioned that the law specifically says they're allowed to put conditions on the construction and operation of facilities as part of the cumulative impacts process. The drawback right now is that it's just not for the construction that you're talking about since it isn't an affecting facility.

Terry Adams mentioned the Vitti Rock Crushing facility inside of a building that was permitted by the state that is a concern of air quality in the neighborhood.

Indoor Rock Crushing Requirements – Stamford, CT

1. Zoning Location

- Must be in an **M-G (General Industrial)** zoning district.
- **Only indoor crushing is allowed**—*outdoor crushing is prohibited.*

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2. Special Permit

- A **Special Permit** from the Stamford **Zoning Board** is required.
- Crushing must occur **inside a fully enclosed building**, not just under a roof.

3. Noise, Dust, and Vibration Controls

- Equipment must be:
 - Mounted on **rubber or vibration-isolating mounts**.
 - Fitted with **dust suppression systems** (e.g. misting, baghouses).
 - Designed to meet Stamford's **noise limits** (e.g. 55 dBA to residential neighbors).

4. Operations Management Plan (OMP)

- You must submit a written plan including:
 - Noise and dust mitigation
 - Hours of operation (**limited to Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.**)
 - Equipment layout
 - Truck access and queuing
 - Emergency contact information

5. State Air Permit (CT DEEP)

1. Indoor rock crushers must be registered with **Connecticut DEEP** under either:
 - **Permit-by-Rule (PBR)** – for small to mid-sized crushers
 - **New Source Review (NSR)** – if emissions exceed limits (e.g., 15 tons/year)
2. Requirements may include:
 - Stack testing
 - Dust control
 - Emissions records

6. Building and Fire Code Compliance

- The building must comply with:
 - **Fire safety and ventilation codes**
 - **OSHA** and **local building code** standards
 - **Noise insulation**, if required

Doris D. Johnson

Outreach and Education Coordinator
Equity and Environmental Justice Office
Commissioner's Office
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127
P: 860.424-3053 | F: 860.418-5906 | E: doris.johnson@ct.gov

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Monika Twal mentioned she think DEEP should be focusing on another part of town for the dope/smoke shops that have just burst and affecting young adults.

City/Zoning Regulations

Stamford Zoning Board: Smoke shops must now obtain a special permit and adhere to strict zoning rules. New shops are:

1. Prohibited within 3,000 ft of other smoke shops or cannabis retailers.

Blocked within 1,000 ft of schools, parks, community centers, and residential zones.

Only permitted in designated commercial or industrial districts

2. State Licensing & Enforcement

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP): Issues licenses for tobacco and vape dealers and enforces regulations on product sales

Department of Public Health (DPH): Focuses on tobacco control and prevention initiatives

portal.ct.gov

Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS): Enforces youth access laws, especially around underage sales

Department of Revenue Services (DRS): Handles tobacco tax licensing and penalizes repeat violations

3. Enforcement Agencies

Stamford Police Department (especially Narcotics & Organized Crime Unit): Takes part in local raids on smoke shops

Connecticut State Police: Assist in joint enforcement operations.

Attorney General's Office: Takes legal action, seizes illegal products, and pursues civil penalties or prosecutions

4. Federal Oversight

Food & Drug Administration (FDA): Regulates tobacco and vape products under the Family Smoking Prevention & Tobacco Control Act

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Question-Sheila Barney-What type of impact would you have on the noise for a dog barking facility?

Answer-Eliza Heins- it's not an affecting facility, so it's not something that would come under the environmental justice law, but that doesn't mean that there aren't things that can be done about it. Just not through the cumulative impacts or environmental justice procedure.

STAMFORD ANIMAL CONTROL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone: (203)977-4437
201 Magee Ave
Stamford, CT 06902

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT:

Animal Unit
Connecticut Department of Agriculture
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 702, Hartford, CT 06103
Phone: **(860) 713-2506** Fax: **(860) 713-2515** Email: agr.animalcontrol@ct.gov

FINES RELATED TO BARKING DIG NUISANCE VIOLATIONS:

August 27, 1998 98-R-1086

FROM: Matthew Ranelli, Associate Attorney

RE: Barking Dog Nuisance Violations

You asked what happens if someone is cited for nuisance because their dog barks excessively and what happens if they ignore the citation.

The Office of Legislative Research is not authorized to give legal opinions, and the following should not be construed as one.

By law, dogs that are vicious or that bark excessively may be a nuisance (CGS § 22-363, attachment 1). Owning or harboring a dog that is a nuisance is an infraction punishable by a fine of \$60. Subsequent offenses are punishable by a fine of up to \$100 and up to 30 days in prison and the court may require restraint or disposal of the dog as it deems necessary.

People who ignore a citation for the dog's barking are subject to generally the same sanctions as those ignoring any other infraction. If the defendant fails to respond by the answer date on the citation, the state infractions bureau sends out a notice and assigns a second answer date three weeks later. If the defendant does not respond by that date, the bureau closes the case and forwards it to the Superior Court for issuance of a warrant for failure to pay or plead an infraction. The prosecutor has discretion to nullify the infraction or

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issue the warrant. Failure to pay or plead to an infraction is a class C misdemeanor punishable by up to three months in prison and a fine of up to \$500 in addition to the underlying penalty and fine (CGS § 51-164r(a), attachment 2).

According to Melissa Farley of the Judicial Department, the state infraction bureau logged 1283 violations and 699 convictions of CGS § 22-363 in 1996-97. Convictions include anyone who paid the infraction or who contested it and was found guilty in court.

ADDITIONAL STATUTES:

[https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Browse/RCSA/Title_22Subtitle_22-344Section_22-344-69/-control noise](https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Browse/RCSA/Title_22Subtitle_22-344Section_22-344-69/-control%20noise)

You can also sign up for our email listserv here: <https://confirmsubscription.com/h/j/DD9AB907F3F23788>

Luke Daniel – Environmental Justice in Stamford, gave an update based upon the last contact with Jody of the Stamford Health Department: The monitors are currently installed at the Lathan Wider Center just waiting for the final hookup to power and the finishing of training for the data scientist.

Lathan Wider Community Center Update- Janeene Freeman Special Assistant to Mayor Caroline Simmons for Community Engagement and Partnerships. Joined by Scott Butch Director of Facilities and Sustainability:

Lathan Wider Community Center was closed because of a failure in a piece of mechanical equipment that caused flooding, and they were forced to relocate all of the nonprofit organizations that were in the building.

How things are going to move forward:

- CLC decided that they were going to leverage the couple of sites that they had.
- The health clinic moved to an Optimus site.
- Clothes for Kids went to Lockwood Avenue

Phase 1, really focusing on making sure that they take care of all the emergency repairs. (the boiler, which was one of the issues, doing the building remediation, looking at the generator, and working on the HVAC system, which they knew had caused some problems).

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The next phase was really looking at what could they do during this time when the tenants were out of the building, either make improvements or enhancements to the site? Some of these improvements would include:

- the parking lot being repaved,
- improving the basketball courts
- improve the lighting
- looking at a sprinkler system
- trying to figure out a way to upgrade the playground.
- Use the 1.5 million federal monies to refurbish the gym.
- Looking at retractable glass door
- Proposal to bring EMS services to the building
- Provide new leases for all tenants.
- Target date for opening moved to August early September

There's currently 6 members, our board of rep's members are part of this group, leadership from the NRZ team, and then myself and my colleague Lindsay Cohen.

Question-John DaRosa: What is being used in the space that was previously the girl's gym, and will it be restored for use?

Answer-Scott Butch: Planning to go out to an RFP for an architect to turn that space back into a functional gym. It might be half a gym, but it will become a recreational space.

Question -Sue Halpern: Can the library stay where they are in the BLT building until this project is completed at the community center? Are you hoping that DMV will come back?

Answer-Janeene Freeman: The Ferguson Library has decided to stay with BLT. I believe their lease goes through October or November. DMV is probably one of tenants who may not be back.

Monika Twal mentioned that she would like the Lathan Wider center opened in July as promised by the mayor and requested a breakdown of how the 1.5 million would be used for the community center.

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Question-John Wooten: The upgrade of the gym is that on the side where you're thinking about having EMS? Is the cost coming from the 1.5 million? If the EMS comes out on Henry Street how would that affect the school children? If it comes out of the garage, would you have to put up a fence for noise abatement when the ambulance comes out of the garage or the parking lot?

Answer-Scott Butch: I would say we're still in the very early days of looking at all these items. We're looking at the entire building holistically. The idea would be to Renovate that gym and have an opening. No decisions have been made about anything. We're taking all these type of points into consideration and will keep the community updated.

Scott advised they did get full insurance coverage which he thinks ended up being 93%. They are doing everything as quickly as possible within the guidelines of the city. They would love to be open July 1st. Unfortunately, it was just beyond their reach but he think they can get the building open in September which is a real milestone.

Question-John Darosa: EMS going to cut down on parking? Also, the playground next to the parking lot off Woodland?

Answer-Scott Butch: I can't answer when the EMS will be there, I think the idea would be just a simple garage bay.

Question -John Darosa: Have you looked at parking since the parking lot has been packed with cars, how does EMS get in and out of the parking lot?

Answer-Scott Butch: I don't think that's been identified yet. I think this is all part of the operational planning for the upgrades.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm