

Present: **16 Zoom Participants:**

The meeting began at 6:30 pm

Jacob Felton- Connecticut Deep Air Enforcement Division- Introduced Julian Taborda to give an update on their last inspection in Stamford South End on October 2nd, 2025.

Julian Tarboda- Connecticut Deep Air Enforcement Division- advised that during their inspection on Thursday Oct 2nd,2025 they did observe particulate matter from the top of the asphalt plant travel across the property boundary at ground level. Due to this occurrence a notice of violation will be issued to O&G for those emissions. During their inspection they also observed:

- mild odors from the wastewater treatment plant. However, based on the odor levels it did not reach nuisance level.
- Stopped by a couple of other sites of interest (14 acres site, B&S carting site, Rubino Brothers, Wastewater Treatment plant, Transfer station)
- No violations were observed at the locations, but they will continue to monitor the areas.

Question: Sheila Barney - When O&G get a violation what happens after they are notified?

Answer: Julian Tarboda- O&G have 30 days to respond to DEEP Air Enforcement Division to submit a compliance statement. The compliance statement has the details of all corrective actions they are going to take to fix the violations.

Julian stated they have briefly talked with O&G, and they are already taking some corrective actions to try to minimize fugitive emissions that were observed on October 2, 2025. They are not sure on the final actions of O&G as the report is still in the works. According to Julian O&G is taking the violation seriously.

Question: Terry Adams-Did O&G lower the smokestack that come from the asphalt plant?

Answer: Julian Tarboda- He don't think so, but he really didn't pay attention to the smokestack.

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Terry mentioned the smokestack looks like it's level with the plant and that he thought it was higher so you couldn't see the emission of the smoke from Canal Street.

Question: Terry Adams- Is there a specific height the smokestack should have been when O&G got grandfathered in?

Answer: Julian Tarboda- He is not sure as this is new information, but he will double check by looking back at some pictures and compare with the pictures taken on October 2, 2025. If there was a change he will get back with an update.

Jake stated O&G is grandfathered in certain respects, but it is a permitted hot mix asphalt plant and one of the things they look at when they permit these plants and do the emissions modeling is the height of the smokestack. A decrease in stack height at a permitted plant can have implications. They will look further into the stack height at O&G.

Question: Sheila Barney- The height of the smokestack makes a difference in the amount of emissions spewing into the community?

Answer: Jacob Fulton- It's the same amount of emissions but when you lower the smokestack the dispersion isn't as good. The ground level concentration of whatever pollutant could be higher.

Jake mentioned that for some pollutants not all pollutants there are certain thresholds when permitting a new plant that must be met.

Question: Sheila Barney- Are there cancerous pollutants coming from the asphalt plant?

Answer: Jacob Felton- There's carcinogenic compounds that come out of your walls, your sofa, your car and Yes asphalt plants and other industrial facilities.

Jacob stated that hot mix asphalt plant isn't regulated by EPA as a toxic source. Terry mentioned the state has the asphalt plant open at night to do road work.

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Question: Terry Adams- Is there anything we can do to make sure trucks are not idling more the 5-10 minutes or whatever the law is? Is it once they are on private property there is nothing that can be done?

Answer: Jacob Felton- there is state regulation that applies regardless of whether idling is on public or private property. However, if the trucks are queuing waiting in line to load asphalt, then they are not subject to the 3 minutes. If the plant is shut down and the trucks are queuing on the street waiting for the plant to open, then that's different.

Jacob Felton advised the City of Stamford has an idling ordinance, but he is not sure if it applies to the private property. Jake will reach out to the Health Director. DEEP has limited staff and cannot do real time complaint response but can respond to some of the more ongoing systemic idling issues as part of their inspection process. Jacob emphasized calling the City of Stamford regarding real-time idling complaints.

Question: Sheila Barney-When you say the city should respond, do you mean the police department?

Answer: Jacob Felton- He think it is the police department that responds.

Question: Sheila Barney- While you were in the South End of Stamford the only violator was O&G and not some of the other facilities?

Answer: Julian Tarboda- He is not sure about the other facilities but yes, the only violation during their inspection was O&G.

Jacob confirmed it was fugitive dust from O&G although they get a lot of odor complaints. Jacob mentioned regulatory nuisance standards which O&G has not been documented as an odor nuisance. A nuisance has a lot of different legal meanings.

Question: Sheila Barney-What could be done regarding a nuisance smell and how would it be handled to prevent it from happening again?

Answer: Jacob Felton- They have handled odor nuisance cases in the past. The facility in violation had to install emission controls.

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Jacob mentioned they have smelled odors that are typical of any hot mix asphalt plant near the canal street operation. There are criteria in their regulation as to what constitutes a nuisance and the odors documented from O&G hasn't risen to the level of nuisance. Julian mentioned that trucks just receiving a fresh load of asphalt that is so hot when it is delivered to the bed of the truck that it still produces a lot of condensable gases. Therefore, trucks traveling down canal street with the hot load is often the source of the asphalt odors. The nuisance regulation is limited to nuisance odors from facilities. Any mobile source of nuisance is handled by DOT (Department of Transportation). DEEP doesn't have authority over mobile sources.

Question: Sheila Barney- What are you looking for at the nuisance level?

Answer: Julian Tarboda- Certain criteria is a little subjective. The inspectors go to school to get training but there are certain foul criteria:

1. Frequency
2. Duration
3. Intensity
4. Characteristic

Eilish Main-State Representative emphasized she wanted to support the O&G conversation because anything that can be done at the state level she will support. Sheila Barney invited DEEP Air Enforcement Division back to give an update at the January NRZ meeting.

Lynn Brooks mentioned that she had heard a rumor that Trader Joe's is going into 18 Dock Street retail space. Sheila Barney advised she would reach out to Kathy Rorick who is closely affiliated with the developer.

Chanta Graham brought up the dogs being walked without leashes. Eilish Main stated they did introduce legislation to increase fines for dogs off leashes. Eilish emphasized she is diligently working at the state level to get the bill passed.

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Elizabeth McCauly asked when will the paving on Elmcroft Road e finished? The date of completion was supposed to be October 10,2025. Terry Adams stated he would reach out to Luke in transportation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm