**CEEJAC Air & Transportation Subcommittee Meeting**

Feb 8, 2023 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Meeting Recording link:

<https://ctdeep.zoom.us/rec/share/1vZJGR4gXUXmYLZBpmDg4-FdlunpcS__j2Zz3_Q-7cvK7_Xv7NTBI3NuLS4Cw7Hi.rfyFPQZrKIZs5_PW?startTime=1675895587000>

**Subcommittee Chair:**

Alex Rodriguez – Environmental Justice (EJ) Specialist at Save The Sound

Edith Pestana – EJ Administrator at Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)

**Paul Farrell – Director of the Planning & Standards Division within the Bureau of Air Management at CT DEEP**

* Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets the federal air quality standards, and the state implements them
* Six criteria air pollutants designated by the EPA: ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, lead
* Core Functions of the Air Management Bureau by division:
	+ Planning division – mobile sources, attainment planning, ambient monitoring, data analysis
	+ Engineering division – stationary source control, permitting, technical services
	+ Enforcement division – field enforcement, source emissions monitoring, compliance analysis, administrative enforcement, investigations
	+ Radiation division – radioactive materials, medical x-ray, agreement state and EOC support

**Pete Babich – Assistant Director of Air Quality Monitoring division**

CT Air Monitoring Network

* Connecticut monitors for: *ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, black carbon*
* Meteorological: wind speed, wind direction, relative humidity, temperature, dew point, solar radiation
	+ Objectives: compliance for criteria pollutants, Air Quality Index (AQI) reporting, control strategies, trend analysis, State Implementation Plans (SIP) development, characterize sources of data, support long-term health assessments and model evaluations

PurpleAir Network

* Citizen Science data collection through a Purple Air particulate matter (PM) sensor
* 40 DEEP owned PurpleAir monitors that have been distributed to citizen organizations for air monitoring and data collection
* Connecticut *Executive Order 21-3* states that DEEP must develop a community-based air quality monitoring program

Air Quality Monitoring Workgroup of Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States & DC

* CT DEEP is a part of this
* Georgetown Climate Center in Washington D.C.
* Goal: build a “community of practice” to learn about and share best practices for air quality monitoring and educational outreach with EJ stakeholders and community organizations

Geospatial Measurement of Air Pollution (GMAP)

* Monitor is placed inside a vehicle to collect air quality data using precise instruments and GPS
* 3D map of visual representation of the air quality along a route
* GMAP will fill in the gap between DEEP’s ambient air monitoring network and its source emission testing program
* Intended to help better understand air pollution in Environmental Justice and overburdened communities

DEEP’S Air and Transportation Focus for 2023

* Reclassification to “severe” ozone attainment statis in Middlesex and New Haven counties
	+ Timeline for which to bring your state into attainment; Middlesex and New Haven counties will be subject to more stringent federal air pollution control requirements
* Implement Public Act 22-25
	+ CHEAPR
	+ Income qualified voucher program for new and used electric vehicles
	+ To fleets and electric bicycles

**Questions/Comments from CEEJAC**

How can communities get in touch with DEEP to get air quality monitors?

* Individuals may contact Pete Babich at pete.babich@ct.gov

Do PurpleAir sensors monitor nitrogen oxides?

* No, PurpleAir sensors only measure particulate matter (PM)

Why isn’t lead being monitored?

* Low levels of lead in air quality monitoring in Connecticut allowed for the EPA to remove lead monitoring in CT

What can citizens use to measure pollutants other than particulate matter?

* PurpleAir monitors are some of the least expensive ways to monitor for particulate matter
* Other sensors can be used for other pollutants, but they may be more expensive
* Contact pete.babich@ct.gov for more information

How is the Air Bureau in DEEP using the air quality monitoring data to collaborate with the various Environmental Justice initiatives of the state?

* **Jaimeson Sinclair: DEEP Director of Air Engineering:**
	+ Consultation occurs between the Air Engineering Bureau in DEEP and the modeling group that is setting Environmental Justice (EJ) policies for the state; An integrated resource plan is created to look at what the air emission outcome recommendations would be and how it would impact the EJ communities

Where is there meaningful opportunity for the public to understand the status of air quality monitoring efforts? Why is lead not being monitored when small propeller planes use leaded fuel?

* EPA is in the process of addressing areas that use leaded gasoline
* DEEP models lead levels through estimated models
	+ DEEP models the amount of leaded fuel they know is being used to account for lead levels in areas with exposure

S. Lewis comments:

* EJ communities need resources to monitor all air pollutants, not only PM2.5
* Major highways run through EJ communities

Kimberly Lesay - Department of Transportation (DOT)

* DOT and DEEP are working together on the governor’s executive orders
* Proposal was recently submitted to reduce vehicle miles traveled and increase transit service

**Public Comments/Questions**

G. Campos: Air pollution from oil tanks on Forbes Avenue by Quinnipiac River in New Haven – What can be done about this?

* DEEP’s response:
	+ Products stored there: distillate, home heating oil, various gasoline oils, ethanol, biodiesel
	+ These products are volatile and produce odors

Jaimeson Sinclair: DEEP Director of Air Engineering

*Reporting Environmental Problems:* <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/About/Reporting-Environmental-Problems>

*Enforcement Case Summary:* <https://www.depdata.ct.gov/enforcement/enfform.asp?deepNav=|>

*Report Spills* or other Environmental Emergencies to the CT DEEP 24 hours per day at:

* **860-424-3338** or Toll Free at: 1-866-DEP-SPIL (**1-866-337-7745**)

Would you like to *file a complaint about odors* or an *air pollution source*?

* Please call the Air Complaint Line at: **860-424-3436** or email deep.aircomplaints@ct.gov

Do you have another air related question?

* Please call **860-424-4152**

Rep. Aundre Bumgardner (Groton) environmental injustice concerns: aundre.bumgardner@ct.gov

D. Lauricella suggestions:

* GMAP for each congressional district in the state
* Hotline for the public to identify potential targets of pollution
* additional stationary monitoring that adds parameters for toxic pollutants?
* more enforcement staff for DEEP
* Bridgeport has piles of silica dust that need to be addressed
* Two to three hour idling line to get to the Bridgeport Trash-To-Energy plant
* make an example of major polluters in the press to deter harmful behavior

L. Audette comments:

* East Haven resident, under the approach of Tweed Airport jets
* Part of a community group of citizen scientists
* Environmental Impact Statement for the expansion of Tweed airport needs to be done
* The smell of airport idling wakes residents in the morning, before there is any wind
* Three sides of the airport are bordered by neighborhoods immediately at the airport’s perimeter
* How do DEEP air sensors and GMAP sensors measure up to the EPA air quality standards?
* What is the DEEP regulatory purview?
	+ DEEP is a regulatory agency; DEEP has authority to set emission standards in accordance with California standards; DEEP cannot regulate aircraft because aircraft is regulated by the federal government

Public Comments about Environmental Justice can be submitted to Edith Pestana, DEEP’s EJ administrator: edith.pestana@ct.gov

L. Bonnett comment:

* Question about GMAP: In the example of Tweed Airport: Can it be used to measure the intermittent release of jet fuels?
	+ GMAP has the capability; DEEP would try to deploy the GMAP when the jets are active and would work with the community to understand when activity is highest

L. Venegas comment:

* $600,000 from IRA to DEEP for air quality
	+ What is this money going toward?
* East Haven jet fuel delivery trucks are driving through residential areas
	+ East Haven plans to install more fuel tanks
		- DEEP: if you witness trucks idling, contact DEEP Air Complaint line
* Use of Roundup glyphosate around the airport
	+ 23,000 pets in East Haven residential area near the airport became sick in a short amount of time
		- DEEP: make a complaint to DEEP’s pesticide management program
		- pesticide contact information: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Bureau of Materials Management & Compliance Assurance Pesticide Management Program79 Elm StreetHartford, CT 06106Telephone: **860-424-3369**e-mail: Diane.Jorsey@ct.gov
		- Useful Telephone ContactsPoison Control Center: **1-800-222-1222**National Pesticide Information Center: **800-858-7378**DEEP 24-hour Emergency Spill Reporting: **(860) 424-3338**Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station: **(203) 974-8500**