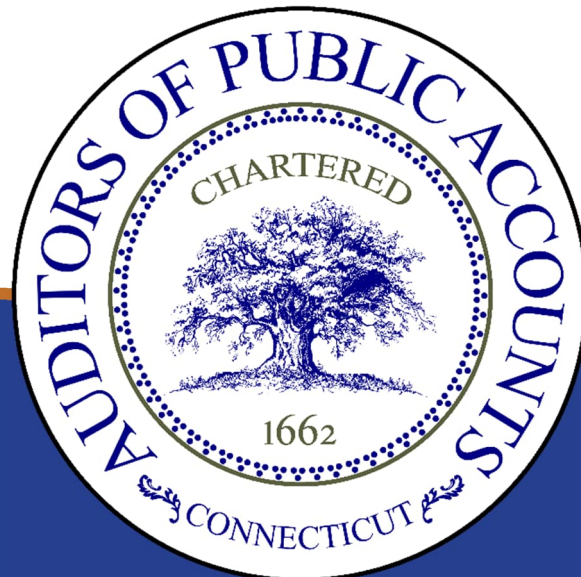


AUDITORS' REPORT

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

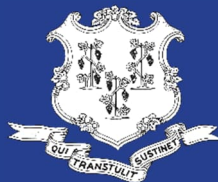
Council on Environmental Quality
Office of Consumer Counsel
Connecticut Siting Council

FISCAL YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2024



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Auditors of Public Accounts

JOHN C. GERAGOSIAN
State Auditor



CRAIG A. MINER
State Auditor

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT



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December 10, 2025

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to submit this audit of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC), and the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2023 and 2024 in accordance with the provisions of Section 2-90 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Our audit identified internal control deficiencies; instances of noncompliance with laws, regulations, or policies; and a need for improvement in practices and procedures that warrant management's attention.

The Auditors of Public Accounts wish to express our appreciation for the courtesies and cooperation extended to our representatives by the personnel of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Consumer Counsel, and the Connecticut Siting Council during the course of our examination.

The Auditors of Public Accounts also would like to acknowledge the auditors who contributed to this report:

Romina Andrade
Jacob Guerra
George Meleounis
Michael Stemmler

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Stemmler".

Michael Stemmler
Principal Auditor

Approved:

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John C. Geragosian
State Auditor

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Craig A. Miner
State Auditor

STATE AUDITORS' FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Our examination of the records of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Consumer Counsel, and the Connecticut Siting Council disclosed the following 17 recommendations, of which 16 were repeated from the previous audit.

Finding 1

Improper Paid Administrative Leave

Criteria

Section 5-240-5a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies allows an appointing authority to place an employee on a paid leave of absence for up to fifteen days to permit investigation of alleged serious misconduct, or thirty days when an employee is the subject of criminal charges. The agency must provide written notice to the employee detailing the reason for the leave, the effective date, and the duration.

Condition

Our review of six employees on paid leave during the audited period disclosed the following:

- In all six instances, DEEP did not provide supporting documentation, including notice to the employee detailing the reason for the paid leave.
- In five instances, employees remained on paid administrative leave beyond the 30-day limit by 25 days to nearly six months. The employees received \$117,166 in paid administrative leave, of which \$75,849 should not have been allowed because it exceeded 30 days.

Context

Six employees received paid administrative leave during the audited period. We reviewed the circumstances for each employee.

Effect

DEEP paid \$75,849 in salary to employees who could have been placed on unpaid leave, terminated, or returned to work.

Cause

A lack of management oversight contributed to lack of completion and retention of paid administrative leave documents. Delays in

completing investigations resulted in employees exceeding the 30-day limit.

Prior Audit Finding

This finding has previously been reported in the last two audit reports covering the fiscal years 2018 through 2022.

Recommendation

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should comply with the requirements concerning employees placed on paid leave as provided for under Section 5-240-5a of the State Regulations.

Agency Response

"The Department does not dispute this finding. With the statewide centralization of Human Resources under the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and Labor Relations under the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), this matter is no longer solely the responsibility of DEEP. While the Department continues to collaborate with OPM Labor Relations and assists in investigations, it didn't have authority over approving requests to extend paid leave during this audited period, and investigations can take time.

DEEP has raised concerns about the current fifteen- and thirty-day limits. While an investigation is pending, it is often not feasible to return employees to work or to assign them temporarily to other positions. It also is usually not appropriate to place employees on unpaid leave during open investigations –because the government cannot deprive individuals of their property rights without due process of law. The relevant state entities are aware of the condition and continue to work on solutions.

DEEP remains committed to working with DAS and OPM to set up a system that allows for agency compliance and ensures that employees are not placed on paid administrative leave longer than necessary."

Finding 2

Controls Over Overtime and Compensatory Time

Criteria

Section 5-245 of the General Statutes provides that employees can receive overtime pay when authorized by their appointing authority.

The DEEP overtime and compensatory time policy is included in its directive Compensatory Time, Overtime, and Lifting the Overtime Cap - Bargaining Unit Employees. This directive requires advance supervisory approval of overtime and compensatory time. The policy also requires that the employee and supervisor keep accurate records of overtime and compensatory time earned and supervisory

approval of employee timesheets indicating approval of all overtime and compensatory time.

Core-CT designates specific compensatory time plans based on bargaining unit contracts and state statutes. It also sets the expiration for the use of compensatory time. Enrolling employees in the correct compensatory time plan helps to ensure compliance with bargaining unit contracts and state statutes.

Condition

We reviewed 25 non-emergency employees who earned overtime and/or compensatory time during the audited period and disclosed the following:

- DEEP lacks a consistent policy to document advance supervisory approval of overtime or compensatory time for non-emergency personnel. In seven instances, DEEP lacked support for overtime or compensatory time requests. In two instances, the request was not signed by a supervisor. These instances involved \$26,169 in overtime pay and the accrual of 69 hours of compensatory time.

We reviewed compensatory time plans in Core-CT for 20 employees and noted that seven were enrolled in the wrong plan.

Context

Overtime payments for non-emergency personnel at DEEP totaled \$2,329,297 and \$2,311,602 in fiscal years 2023 and 2024, respectively. We judgmentally selected 15 employees for testing, based on amounts of overtime earned during the audited period. We then judgmentally selected one pay period for each employee, reviewing a total of \$39,095 in overtime pay.

DEEP employees earned 6,172 and 8,955 hours of compensatory time in fiscal years 2023 and 2024, respectively. We judgmentally selected ten employees for testing, based on amounts of compensatory time earned during the audited period. We then judgmentally selected one pay period for each employee, reviewing a total of 288 compensatory hours.

As of June 30, 2024, there were 660 employees enrolled in one of eight compensatory time plans. We judgmentally selected 20 employees, to ensure a variety of plans were reviewed.

Effect

Overtime and compensatory time costs are more difficult to manage and may be subject to abuse. Employees may earn compensatory time that is not permitted by their bargaining unit contracts. Their compensatory time may not expire as required by those contracts.

Cause

DEEP does not have a process to document the preapproval of non-emergency overtime and compensatory time, which includes the

reason for the overtime and justifies why the work cannot be done during regular work hours.

A lack of managerial oversight contributed to the enrollment in an incorrect compensatory time plan.

Prior Audit Finding

This finding has previously been reported in the last two audit reports covering the fiscal years 2018 through 2022.

Recommendation

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should revise its overtime and compensatory time policy for non-emergency personnel to document the preapproval of overtime and compensatory time. The documentation should include the reason for the time and justification as to why the work cannot be performed during regular hours. The department should also ensure employees are enrolled in the correct compensatory time plan in accordance with their bargaining unit contracts.

Agency Response

"Formal documentation of overtime and compensatory time presents operational challenges due to the unique and diverse nature of DEEP's work. Many instances of overtime or compensatory time are unforeseen but essential for DEEP to fulfill its responsibilities. Whether it involves working beyond scheduled hours to cover an event, addressing new developments in construction projects, or returning later from sea sample collection, it is often impractical to obtain preapproval or unreasonable to deny this time.

To address these challenges, DEEP has implemented several measures to improve compliance and ensure proper advance approval. These include reinforcing policy requirements agency-wide, requiring staff to submit completed preapproval forms to payroll before working overtime, and reviewing earned overtime and compensatory time after each pay period. Any non-compliance identified during bi-weekly reviews is reported to management for corrective action and, when necessary, discussed at monthly budget meetings. When updating the directive/policy, we will add in these additional steps.

Furthermore, DEEP has established and continues to invest in an internal compliance unit dedicated to reviewing operations and recommending improvements. This unit will assess the agency's overtime and compensatory time policies to better align them with DEEP's unique operational needs. DEEP acknowledges the importance of the work performed outside an employee's regular schedule and is committed to ensuring it is necessary and properly approved."

Finding 3

Improper Time Reporting

Background

The Environmental Conservation (EnCon) Police is a part of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Its mission is to provide natural resource protection and public safety through education, outreach and enforcement in the areas of fish and game, boating, commercial fishing, wildlife management, parks, and forests. EnCon Police have statewide conservation law enforcement responsibilities and work in three geographical districts each managed by a district captain and overseen by a colonel. They are responsible for over 255,000 acres of agency owned land and water that includes state forests, state parks, wildlife management areas and boating access areas.

EnCon utilizes a computer-aided dispatch (CAD) log to document when an officer is on duty or responding to a call. The officer radios into the dispatcher who updates the CAD log to track the officer's status.

Most EnCon officers are assigned state-owned vehicles. These vehicles are fixed with a GPS device, which is monitored and tracked by Department of Administrative Services (DAS) software.

Criteria

Adequate internal controls dictate that time reporting be accurate, supported, and reflect hours worked.

Condition

We reviewed time reported by ten EnCon officers during 26 pay periods and compared information to their vehicle GPS and CAD logs, and noted the following:

- In 33 instances, involving five officers, the start or end time on the CAD log differed by more than 30 minutes from the GPS vehicles start/stop time. The CAD log is used whenever an officer is on duty, on a normal shift, or responding to a call. The officer radios at the beginning and end of each shift and the CAD log is updated. In 21 of these instances, involving two officers, the start/stop time differed by more than one hour.
- In four instances, involving two officers, the vehicle stopped at the officer's home for greater than one hour during their shift.
- In ten instances, involving one officer, the vehicle made stops at non-work-related locations for greater than one hour during their shift.

- On 13 timesheets, involving six officers, the hours reported exceeded the hours on GPS and CAD logs. In total, it appears 126 hours, including 102 overtime hours, were not supported through GPS or CAD log data.

Context	As of June 30, 2024, there were approximately 63 vehicles assigned to 57 EnCon employees. We judgmentally selected ten officers for review, focusing on officers with higher overtime amounts. There were 62 EnCon officers earning 24,232 overtime hours in fiscal year 2023 and 68 EnCon officers earning 22,110 overtime hours in fiscal year 2024.
Effect	Unsupported or inaccurate time reporting could result in employees being paid for time they did not work.
Cause	EnCon Police do not have adequate controls to properly and effectively monitor officers' time.
Prior Audit Finding	This finding has been previously reported in the last audit report covering the fiscal years 2021 through 2022.
Recommendation	The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should improve internal controls over its monitoring of Environmental Conservation Police to ensure the time reported by its officers is accurate and supported.
Agency Response	"DEEP respectfully disagrees with this finding. The Department does not believe there are any instances of officers being paid for time not worked and does not consider comparisons between vehicle GPS data and CAD records to be an accurate reflection of officer activity. Neither CAD nor GPS logs are the primary systems used for timekeeping. Time is recorded and managed through the Core-CT Time and Labor Module. Officers enter their hours via Core-CT Self Service, and these entries are reviewed and approved by supervisors on a bi-weekly basis. Additional managerial oversight occurs regularly. Core-CT is the agency's official time management system. The primary purpose of CAD is to track officer availability for dispatch purposes. EnCon Dispatch handles a wide range of calls, including those related to wildlife, radiation, spills, and other emergencies. Due to the volume and nature of calls, delays may occur between when an officer radios in and when they are logged as on duty in the system. As such, CAD is not used for tracking hours worked—this responsibility lies with the supervisory chain of command. Any discrepancies are addressed at that level.

EnCon officers are field-based and begin their duties from home. They are available to respond to emergencies 24/7. In addition to patrol duties, officers perform various administrative and operational tasks such as report writing, equipment maintenance, case research, and responding to emails. During these activities, a lack of GPS vehicle movement is expected and does not indicate inactivity.

Moreover, EnCon uses the comment function in Core-CT Self Service Timesheets to document work performed on individual cases. Time entries can be linked to specific cases or duties through associated codes. Based on this system and oversight process, DEEP maintains that officer-reported time is accurate and supported.”

**Auditors’ Concluding
Comments**

The department was unable to provide support or justification to the variances we noted, particularly extended stops at home or non-work locations.

Finding 4

Lack of Employee Evaluations

Criteria

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) developed the Performance Assessment and Recognition System (PARS) to support additional incentive compensation for managerial and confidential employees in participating agencies. The system serves as a basis for annual salary increases and includes developing results-oriented, measurable performance objectives and goals for each manager and confidential employee; regular communication between employees and their supervisors on meeting goals and performance assessments; and providing a basis for differentiating among performance levels.

Condition

We reviewed 15 instances in which an annual evaluation was required for a managerial employee. DEEP did not provide support for 14 of these evaluations.

Context

DEEP employed 68 managerial and confidential employees as of June 30, 2024. We judgmentally selected ten employees for review, ensuring a mixture of managers in various divisions.

Effect

When evaluations are not performed, there is a lack of formal feedback for management to measure performance goals, the attainment of such goals, and productivity expectations.

Cause	The department had inadequate administrative controls to ensure the completion of PARS managerial performance evaluations.
Prior Audit Finding	This finding has been previously reported in the last audit report covering the fiscal years 2021 through 2022.
Recommendation	The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should ensure that it prepares annual performance evaluations for all managers using the Performance Assessment and Recognition System.
DEEP Response	"The Department does not dispute this finding. DEEP recognizes the importance of documenting managerial employee reviews. Managerial employees are monitored and receive feedback constantly from supervisors. Any unsatisfactory performance is addressed promptly. Nonetheless, DEEP is working with DAS Human Resources to create new reports for tracking and documenting managerial reviews in the PARS system. The department expects to see increased compliance in the coming fiscal year."
DAS Response	"It is important that supervisors communicate with their direct reports regarding their performance so that they know where they stand at all times. It is highly recommended that they use PARS as a helpful tool for this task; however, if they choose not to use it, they are still expected to have this communication."

Finding 5

Controls Over Procurement

Criteria	Section 4-98 of the General Statutes states that no budgeted agency may incur any obligation except by the issuance of a purchase order and a commitment transmitted to the State Comptroller. The State Accounting Manual requires agencies to create purchase orders for all purchases of commodities, services, and equipment. The purchase order is required to be created, approved, and posted prior to ordering any goods or services.
Condition	Our review of 25 expenditure transactions, totaling \$4,057,832, noted six instances, totaling \$948,418, in which DEEP did not promptly initiate a purchase order or commit sufficient funds. Delays ranged from three to 93 days, four of which were less than ten days, and two greater than 30 days.

Context	There were over 64,000 expenditure transactions, totaling \$559,253,757.28, during the audited period. We stratified our universe by transaction amounts, including amounts over \$50,000, amounts \$10,000 to \$49,999, and amounts less than \$10,000. We judgmentally selected ten from the first stratum, eight from the second, and seven from the third, for a total of 25.
Effect	When obligations are incurred prior to the commitment of funds, there is less assurance that funding will be available at the time of payment.
Cause	These conditions appear to be the result of a lack of management oversight.
Prior Audit Finding	This finding has not been previously reported.
Recommendation	The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should strengthen internal controls over purchasing to ensure funding is committed and approved prior to purchase in accordance with Section 4-98 of the General Statutes and the State Accounting Manual.
Agency Response	"The Department does not dispute this finding. The Procurement Unit within DEEP's Bureau of Central Services experienced significant staffing vacancies and did not return to full capacity until November 2023. Since reaching adequate staffing levels, the Procurement Unit has implemented enhanced monitoring controls to track purchase order (PO) balances and ensure timely updates. In addition, DEEP is developing a new procurement policy with an emphasis on the timely submission of requisitions and execution of POs. The Department remains committed to improving procurement practices to ensure that funds are properly reserved and available when needed."

Finding 6

Controls Over Purchasing Cards

Criteria	The State Comptroller's Purchasing Card Manual makes cardholders responsible for completing their agency's reconciliation process, recording all purchases on a purchasing log, and maintaining all supporting documentation (e.g., proper receipts, packing slips, etc.). The manual also states that it is important for cardholders to emphasize that the purchase is exempt from sales tax.
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DEEP's Purchasing Card Program procedure states that the completed P-Card Log Sheet or Envelope, along with all the documentation, must be received in the Purchasing Unit no later than the 15th of the following month.

Condition

Our review of ten purchasing card statements, consisting of 73 transactions totaling \$31,998, disclosed the following:

- Purchasing card users did not reconcile four statements on time. The delays ranged from four to 450 days.
- DEEP did not provide any support for one statement with two transactions, totaling \$3,268.
- DEEP did not provide the purchasing log sheet for one statement.

Context

Purchasing card transactions totaled \$2,010,446 and \$2,037,572, during fiscal years 2023 and 2024, respectively. As of June 30, 2024, there were 201 purchasing card holders. We judgmentally selected ten purchasing card statements from five months with the largest expenditures.

Effect

There is an increased risk of misuse of purchasing cards when policies and procedures are not followed.

Cause

The late completion of statement reconciliations and missing supporting documentation appears to be a lack of management oversight.

Prior Audit Finding

This finding has previously been reported in the last two audit reports covering the fiscal years 2018 through 2022.

Recommendation

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should strengthen internal controls over purchasing card transactions by complying with the State Comptroller's Purchasing Card Manual, the department's Purchasing Card Program and internal procedures.

Agency Response

"The Department does not dispute this finding. DEEP's procurement group was not fully staffed until November of 2023. The unit has since implemented an electronic log for tracking and ensuring P-Card reconciliations are complete and submitted timely. Additionally, the State transferred its P-Card service from JP Morgan to US Bank, effective February of 2025. This change provides the agency with additional tools that can be used for purchasing compliance. Online statements and transaction reports can now be accessed centrally by procurement staff allowing for timelier follow up and enforcement of reconciliation requirements. Lastly, the

department is revising its P-Card policies to incorporate firmer language for complying with reconciliation requirements.”

Finding 7

Controls Over Ground Water Permit Applications

Background

The Ground Water Discharge Permit Program regulates discharges to ground water from any source, including but not limited to large septic systems, agricultural waste management systems, and all waste landfills. Applicants for groundwater discharge permits are required to pay an application fee, as well as an annual fee to cover the cost of monitoring compliance with permit terms and conditions. Individual groundwater applications are generally issued for ten or 30 years, depending on the agreement. To renew the permit, the client must submit a new application a few months prior to expiration and pay another application fee. Although review and approval for most applications takes years, DEEP considers the permits active, even if they have expired, until it renews them.

Criteria

Section 22a-430(i) of the General Statutes provides for the issuance of permits for discharge of waters of the state. It also specifies the duration of these permits.

40 CFR Section 144.36(a) states that permits for Class I and V wells shall be effective for a fixed term not to exceed ten years. DEEP applies this stricter term when applicable.

Section 4-182 of the General Statutes provides that, when a permittee has made a timely and sufficient application for the renewal of a permit or a new permit with reference to any activity of a continuing nature, the existing permit does not expire until the department makes a final determination on the application. DEEP does not collect fees for water pollution control permits during a pending application.

Condition

Our review of groundwater discharge permits noted 30 permits in a pending status for more than ten years, including 18 pending for more than 20 years.

Context

Forty-five ground water permits were pending as of June 30, 2024. We performed an analysis of all 45.

Effect

DEEP sacrificed permit fee revenue by not promptly processing applications.

Cause	There was a lack of management oversight over pending permits.
Prior Audit Finding	This finding has been previously reported in the last four audit reports covering the fiscal years 2010, through 2022.
Recommendation	The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should work to issue water discharge permits on time. The department should immediately address permit applications that have been pending for more than ten years.
Agency Response	"The Department does not dispute this finding. The Program lost a significant number of staff from the 2021 retirement wave and was not fully staffed until 2024. Permits are continued in effect to ensure continued protection of water quality and collection of annual fee revenue. The Department is committed to clearing the backlog of permits as evidenced by goal three of DEEP's 20BY26 Goal program. As of March 2025, DEEP has processed 439 legacy permit applications (those older than five years) out of 603 total and continues to make progress as evidenced by the reduction of legacy permits noted in this audit from the prior audit."

Finding 8

Noncompliance with Statutory Requirements of the Nuclear Safety Preparedness Account

Background

There is a memorandum of understanding (MOU), dated July 31, 2013, concerning the Nuclear Safety Emergency Preparedness Program. The parties subject to the MOU include DEEP, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). Per the MOU, the commissioner of DESPP, in consultation with the commissioner of DEEP, are required to submit a plan and proposed budget annually to the Secretary of OPM for approval to carry out the Nuclear Safety Emergency Program (NSEP). The MOU states that the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) will assess the state's nuclear licensees in two installments and prorate 70% of the total assessment billed on July 1 and 30% on December 1 each fiscal year. These funds are used to support the activities of the program.

DEEP calculates the annual assessment by taking the full OPM approved budget and billing the utility companies 70% of that value in July. When the expenses for the prior fiscal year are certified, any surplus from the prior year assessment is deducted from the

remaining 30% and the balance after the deduction is then billed to the utilities for the second installment (approximately December).

Criteria	Section 28-31(a) of the General Statutes requires PURA to establish a nuclear safety preparedness account within the General Fund. PURA may assess licensees for the program expenses, provided the balance in the account at the end of the fiscal year does not exceed \$300,000.
Condition	The balances for the nuclear preparedness account were \$1,491,591 and \$1,620,268 as of June 30, 2023, and 2024, respectively. It does not appear DEEP considers the balance in the account when preparing the December billing. Since the balance exceeded \$300,000 in each fiscal year, an assessment was not necessary.
Context	Budgeted amounts for fiscal year 2023 and 2024 totaled \$5,474,734 and \$6,802,475, respectively. The final expenses for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 totaled \$3,974,609 and \$5,154,307, respectively.
Effect	DEEP appears to be over assessing nuclear licensees.
Cause	The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in consultation with DEEP, does not consider the statutory limitation on the balance in the restricted fund account when preparing the budget. In addition, the memorandum of understanding does not address the \$300,000 statutory account limit.
Prior Audit Finding	This finding has previously been reported in the last five audit reports covering the fiscal years 2010 through 2022.
Recommendation	The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should consider the balance in the nuclear safety preparedness account prior to calculating assessments or seek legislation to amend the balance limitation in Section 28-31(a) of the General Statutes.
Agency Response	"The Department does not dispute this finding. This funding supports critical public safety equipment and services. For some municipalities this is the only source of funding for emergency preparedness related to nuclear operations. The determination for carrying funds forward is made by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and PURA will not withhold the assessment without concurrence. DEEP will continue to work with DESPP, to coordinate timely disbursement of funds and limit carryforwards into the new fiscal year. DESPP manages all Nuclear Safety proceeds and provides an annual reconciliation to the Department as outlined in an MOU between DEEP, OPM and

DESPP. The Department has billing responsibilities and budgetary responsibilities limited to DEEP share of the nuclear assessment. The management of the Fund, the Budget and expenditures is completely transparent and accepted by the two utilities.”

Finding 9

Controls Over Collection of Emergency Spill Costs

Background

DEEP operates an emergency spill response program pursuant to Section 22a-451 of the General Statutes. If DEEP determines there is a potential threat to human health or the environment, the person responsible, firm, or corporation is liable for any expenses the department incurs investigating, containing, removing, monitoring, or mitigating discharge, spillage, loss, seepage, or filtration.

Criteria

Section 22a-451 of the General Statutes allows for the recovery of costs, including the DEEP investigation.

Section 22a-451(c) of the General Statutes states that, if the responsible person, firm, or corporation of a discharge, spill, or seepage is unknown, the commissioner shall request the federal government to assume the contractual obligation of cleaning up the spill to the extent provided by the federal Water Pollution Control Act.

DEEP should accurately record liens as receivables in the correct amounts.

DEEP is required to submit annual reports of receivables and estimated uncollectible amounts to the Office of the State Comptroller for incorporation in the state’s financial statements. Accounts receivable records should be accurate and complete. An adequate system of internal controls should include reconciliation of receivables and timely collection attempts.

Condition

DEEP does not recover all potential administrative costs associated with spills, including equipment and personnel costs. Unrecovered overtime for spill responders totaled \$454,457 and \$427,995 for fiscal years 2023 and 2024, respectively.

DEEP is not actively reviewing unknown party spill cases to identify those eligible for federal reimbursement. We identified 92 spills where the party was unknown, totaling \$352,922 as of June 30, 2024.

DEEP is not actively placing liens on applicable past-due accounts. The department provided us with a lien report as of June 30, 2024, with a \$4,519,254 balance. The last lien was placed in 2017.

Our review of GAAP Form 2, as of June 30, 2024, noted that DEEP reported \$36,513,666 in emergency spill receivables with \$8,487,593 considered uncollectible. We believe that DEEP understated its uncollectible amount and estimate the uncollectible amount to be closer to \$20,000,000, as a significant portion of accounts reported as collectible have been inactive for many years.

Context

The Emergency Response/Spill Prevention Unit responds to more than one thousand spills each year.

Our estimate of the uncollectible amount included receivables prior to 2019 with no collections during fiscal year 2024.

Effect

DEEP is missing out on the chance to recover administrative costs associated with spill response and recoveries from the responsible party.

Untimely or inaccurate reporting of receivables and uncollectible amounts may result in misstatements on the state's financial statements.

Cause

There was a lack of management oversight and failure to implement statutory cost recovery provisions.

DEEP believes many accounts should still be considered collectible even though there has been no activity for several years.

Prior Audit Finding

This finding has previously been reported in the last six audit reports covering the fiscal years 2008 through 2022.

Recommendation

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should improve its oversight over financial reporting of emergency spill receivables. The department should also ensure all applicable costs associated with the spill are included in the recovery calculation and should perform a review of unknown party spills eligible for federal reimbursement.

Agency Response

"The Department does not fully agree with this finding. DEEP recognizes the importance of recovering all applicable costs—administrative, personnel, and otherwise—associated with spill response and cleanup. While full cost recovery can be challenging due to the nature of emergency responses and legal limitations, the Department is actively evaluating opportunities to enhance its cost recovery processes. This includes identifying policy or operational changes to support the collection of administrative costs as

provided by statute, 30 days after such costs were sought from the responsible party, and overtime, to the extent that overtime costs are associated with cost recovery cases. At the time of an emergency response, DEEP does not know whether the responsible party is assuming responsibility or whether DEEP will need to pay for the response costs. Pursuant to the statute cited above, 22a-451, DEEP performs the response when the responsible party does not act immediately to contain and remove or mitigate the release. Only then would overtime costs be eligible for recovery.

Regarding unknown responsible parties, DEEP evaluates each release at the time of response for which the responsible party is unknown or has failed to act for eligibility pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act OPA 90 Program. Federal reimbursement under that program is limited to petroleum releases that impact navigable waters. Many cost recovery cases do not meet that criterion. DEEP pursues reimbursement when this criterion is met.

Regarding lien placement, the statute provides that the Office of the Attorney General shall bring a civil action to recover costs and expenses; we may refer but the AG must then act. The Department is currently reviewing its lien procedures to determine what actions DEEP may be able to pursue on its own accord. DEEP attempts to recover costs voluntarily before resorting to the placement of a lien. In fact, in 2024 alone, 65 cost recovery cases were resolved through non-lien payment recoveries.

DEEP reviews outstanding receivables to determine which amounts may be truly uncollectible. However, the Department is cautious about writing off cases involving known parties and properties, as these may still be recoverable through payment plans, enforcement, and the lien process. Moreover, DEEP does not have unilateral authority to write off debts; such actions require approval from OPM. DEEP will continue to work closely with OPM to review and resolve aging receivables on a case-by-case basis. It is worth noting that in FY2024 and FY2025 combined, DEEP recovered approximately \$857,000.00 of which some cases date back prior to 2019. In addition, in 2025 DEEP recovered \$450,000 from a single 2007 lien. For this reason, DEEP is careful about determining that a case should be written off solely due to age. The Department remains committed to strengthening its fiscal oversight, enhancing cost recovery efforts, and improving internal controls to ensure responsible stewardship of public resources."

Auditors' Concluding Comments

DEEP has not provided documentation of any requests for federal reimbursement since the inception of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. Petroleum spills into navigable waters probably occurred during this time. There was no evidence that DEEP is considering this option.

Nearly 90% of the uncollectible accounts in our analysis were for spill cases from 2010 and prior. These accounts had balances of over \$19 million. Our recommendation does not propose writing these

accounts off, but they should be considered uncollectible for GAAP reporting.

Finding 10

Controls Over Asset Management

Criteria

The State Property Control Manual prescribes the inventory procedures that agencies should follow. These policies and procedures include:

- The CO-59 property control report should accurately reflect all capitalized real and personal property as of June 30th. Agencies preparing the report must use specific queries to gather the applicable information in the Asset Management System Module of Core-CT.
- It highly recommends appraisals for works of art and historical treasures when resources are available. It also recommends expert appraisals for all permanent collection pieces over \$20,000 every five years.
- Agencies must remove any property that is deemed lost, missing, unaccountable, expired, spoiled or damaged as a result of a physical inventory and must complete an Adjustments to State-Owned Assets (CO-853) form.
- Agencies should safeguard inventory to prevent theft and loss of state property. The agency should review the adequacy of existing physical safeguards designed to protect state property.

Condition

DEEP made a \$756,754 adjustment in fiscal year 2023 to reduce its fine art balance to \$3,510. DEEP performed the adjustment to align its CO-59 with reported balances in Core-CT. However, this amount does not accurately reflect the quantity of the department's fine art. DEEP has not performed an inventory of fine art to reconcile its records to Core-CT. The last fine art appraisal was conducted in 2000.

Our review of the department's inventory list noted it reported 57 assets, totaling \$168,072, in a Research Pending category. Rather than removing these items from the inventory and reporting them as a loss, DEEP created this category for assets it could not locate during the annual inventory with the hope they would be found in subsequent inventories.

We noted one of DEEP's locations that houses several assets, (including those designated for surplus awaiting auction) lacked adequate security. Several assets were outside, unsecured, with no video surveillance. Furthermore, DEEP reported a theft at the site in July 2024.

Context

DEEP reported real and personal property totaling \$457,381,323 and \$460,222,315 on its CO-59 in fiscal years 2023 and 2024, respectively. We reviewed balances reported in all 18 categories.

As of June 30, 2024, DEEP's inventory list included approximately 2,013 total assets totaling \$240,290,132.

At the time of our inspection in March 2025, there were approximately 34 assets, totaling \$877,403, listed at this location. This does not include items awaiting auction since these would have been removed from inventory lists.

Effect

Deficiencies in the control over asset management decrease the department's ability to properly safeguard assets and accurately report inventory.

Cause

DEEP has paper records of fine art that it has not yet recorded in Core-CT.

DEEP began assigning assets to research pending in 2011, believing it provided the best chance for recovery.

A lack of funding to install fencing and cameras contributed to the inability to adequately safeguard these assets.

Prior Audit Finding

This finding has previously been reported in the last seven audit reports covering the fiscal years 2006 through 2022.

Recommendation

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should strengthen internal controls over asset management to safeguard assets and ensure compliance with the requirements of the State Property Control Manual.

Agency Response

"The Department is working to bring asset management reporting into full compliance. The asset management unit within DEEP was understaffed for many years and only reached adequate staffing levels in August 2022. Prior to this, the unit was unable to properly conduct an agency inventory. Since then, inventories have resumed, and progress has been made in updating asset data reported in Core-CT.

DEEP adjusted the CO59 balance for the art category to accurately reflect the state's official accounting record, Core-CT. The

Department retains all files related to historical art purchases and is working to identify pieces currently in its possession. The previous art balance was based on outdated, unverified records, so DEEP deemed it inappropriate to maintain that balance without validation. The Department is also exploring appraisal options to ensure accurate valuation of art once located.

Assets marked “research pending” have held this status since as early as 2011. The Department chose not to write off these assets during the recent inventory due to insufficient evidence that they were lost. Management believes keeping these assets on the inventory increases the likelihood of their recovery.

Regarding DEEP’s Portland location, EnCon police regularly patrol the site, and staff are present during business hours. Assets outside the warehouse are primarily large items unlikely to be subject to theft, such as vehicles. The Department is considering additional security improvements, including additional fencing and security cameras.

Overall, DEEP has made significant progress since the last audit and remains committed to improving asset management practices, ensuring accurate reporting, and safeguarding assets.”

Finding 11

Management of DEEP-Owned Vehicles and Controls Over Maintenance

Background

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection purchases its own vehicles and leases vehicles from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). DAS vehicles may be leased daily, monthly, or yearly.

DEEP performs maintenance of its vehicles at garages in Thomaston (Western District) and Moosup (Eastern District).

Criteria

Agencies are responsible for ensuring that their state-owned vehicles are used in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

A fleet management system should properly document maintenance costs.

Condition

Our review of 403 vehicle mileage reports completed for February 2024 disclosed 177 instances in which a vehicle was used five times or less during the month. This included 61 instances in which a

vehicle had no reported use at all. It appears DEEP is underutilizing vehicles.

Our review of controls over vehicle maintenance noted that DEEP does not have a fleet management system to oversee vehicle costs. DEEP employees prepare a Vehicle/Equipment/Facility Repair Request form listing the work requested and completed, but the department does not centrally track these forms.

Context	As of February 29, 2024, DEEP maintained a fleet of 550 vehicles. This includes 339 DEEP-owned and 211 leased from DAS. We judgmentally selected February 2024 to focus on a month towards the end of our audited period and reviewed all logs available.
Effect	The lack of a fleet management system prevents DEEP from efficiently and effectively managing vehicle utilization and costs.
Cause	DEEP does not use fleet management software to track utilization, monitor vehicle service, or document all maintenance purchases.
Prior Audit Finding	This finding has previously been reported in the last two audit reports covering the fiscal years 2018 through 2022.
Recommendation	The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should analyze its vehicle inventory to determine the optimal amount of vehicles it needs to operate efficiently. The department should improve its vehicle maintenance system by acquiring software to track its vehicle repair and maintenance costs.
Agency Response	"The Department does not fully agree with this finding. DEEP's vehicle usage is significantly influenced by its seasonal operations, particularly for State Parks. The peak season runs from Memorial Day (last Monday in May) through Labor Day (first Monday in September), during which vehicle usage increases substantially. Naturally, usage declines outside of this period. The month reviewed for this audit—February—falls well outside the agency's busy season. Additionally, DEEP operates a variety of specialized vehicles that are used only for specific purposes. For example, the Department owns two vehicles used exclusively for fish stocking, which occurs only at limited times throughout the year. Other vehicles, including those designated for emergency spill response and firetrucks, are used only in response to specific incidents. Regarding vehicle maintenance, DEEP recently completed the installation of Geotab technology across its fleet. This integrated fleet management system automatically tracks vehicle utilization, maintenance needs, and system diagnostics. The Department will leverage this technology to improve fleet oversight and ensure

timely and appropriate vehicle maintenance and continue to optimize the size and deployment of DEEP's fleet based on demand."

**Auditors' Concluding
Comments**

We recognize vehicle usage may fluctuate based on seasonal need. However, 177 vehicles represent 32% of DEEP's fleet. We believe DEEP should consider better management of usage and consolidation of its fleet.

Finding 12

Controls Over Mileage Reporting

Criteria

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) General Letter No.115, Policy for Motor Vehicles Used for State Business, requires agencies to keep daily mileage logs on a monthly usage report (Form CCP-40) for each assigned state-owned vehicle. The operator of the vehicle must certify daily activity as true and correct. The monthly usage report shows starting and ending mileage, state and commercial fuel usage, and signatures by the employee, supervisor, and manager. DEEP uses these monthly mileage records to report ending odometer readings and fuel usage to DAS for DAS-leased vehicles.

Condition

Our review of all mileage logs (CCP-40) completed during the month of February 2024 disclosed the following:

- DEEP did not complete mileage logs for all its vehicles. As of February 29, 2024, the department listed 550 owned or leased vehicles. However, only 403 mileage logs were available for review.
- Twenty-nine mileage logs lacked a supervisor's signature.

Context

As of February 29, 2024, DEEP maintained a fleet of 550 vehicles, 339 DEEP-owned and 211 leased from DAS. We judgmentally selected February 2024, to focus on a month towards the end of our audited period and reviewed all logs available.

Effect

Management may not promptly detect misuse of vehicles.

Cause

Management does not appear to be regularly obtaining all required mileage logs.

Prior Audit Finding	This finding has previously been reported in the last three audit reports covering the fiscal years 2015 through 2022.
Recommendation	The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should ensure that monthly mileage logs are prepared and approved for all its vehicles.
Agency Response	"The Department does not dispute this finding. In spring 2025, DEEP implemented Geotab technology across its entire vehicle fleet. This integrated fleet management software tracks vehicle usage daily, and monthly mileage will now be reported automatically. All vehicles will be assigned to specific Bureaus and supervisors within DEEP, with centralized tracking of approvals to ensure compliance."

Finding 13

Controls Over Required Reporting

Criteria	The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection must comply with numerous reporting requirements set forth in various sections of the General Statutes.
Condition	Our review of 32 legislatively required reports applicable during the audited period disclosed 13 reports that were not submitted, and three reports were submitted 42 to 109 days late. We also could not determine the submission date for ten reports. These reports cover topics including the state water plan, tree removal activities, zero carbon resources study, lost and unaccounted for gas, and the electronics recycling plan.
Context	DEEP has at least 78 reporting requirements. Many reports are due annually, and some are due semi-annually, or every two to three years. We judgmentally selected 19 reporting requirements for review, focusing on new and significant reports.
Effect	Intended recipients of the reports may not have current information to make informed decisions regarding the department and its operations.
Cause	DEEP lacks an adequate centralized tracking system for required reports.
Prior Audit Finding	This finding has previously been reported in the last two audit reports covering the fiscal years 2018 through 2022.

Recommendation	The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should comply with all applicable statutory reporting requirements.
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Agency Response	"The Department agrees with this finding. DEEP has created a comprehensive tracking log of all current reporting requirements, identified the personnel responsible for each report, and established a process to update the log with any new requirements following legislative sessions. The Compliance unit will monitor the timely submission of reports to all required recipients and collaborate with program staff and DEEP's legislative liaison to request statutory changes for outdated or obsolete reports, which DEEP successfully did so in the most recent legislative session (see Public Act No. 25-170)."
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Finding 14

Lack of Segregation of Duties for the Database Administrator

Background	The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Site Information Management System (SIMS) is a database that manages several key areas, including accounts receivable (detail of assessed fees and receipts), permitting and enforcement, and document management. DEEP considers SIMS to be the subsidiary ledger to Core-CT and reconciles SIMS to Core-CT monthly.
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Criteria	Separation of duties is a practice that restricts one person from being in control of all parts of a transaction or business process. Information technology duties and areas of responsibility should be segregated to reduce the opportunities for unauthorized modification or misuse of information or services. The most basic segregation of duties of the information technology function is separation from user departments. The user department should not perform its own information technology duties.
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Database administrators (DBA) should only design and manage databases and monitor their usage and performance.

Condition	DEEP has two database administrators. We found inadequate segregation of duties, as both DBAs also had user roles for the same system. One performs several tasks and has full access to other IT functions such as various SIMS applications, including permits applications and document management. The other database administrator had user department roles for SIMS applications and permit systems.
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Context	As of April 2025, there were over 380 users in SIMS, each with access to at least one of 57 divisions within SIMS. We reviewed both administrators.
Effect	There is an increased risk of unauthorized changes or misuse of information when one employee has multiple levels of access.
Cause	DEEP does not have enough staff to exclusively dedicate resources to database administration tasks. The DEEP database administrators also support other IT functions including application support that require them to be able to access applications to troubleshoot user reported issues.
Prior Audit Finding	This finding has previously been reported in the last two audit reports covering the fiscal years 2018 through 2022.
Recommendation	The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should maintain segregation of duties between its database administrators and user roles.
Agency Response	"The Department agrees with this finding. The two DBAs needed user roles to assist in processing transactions and keep up with business demand. DEEP will review the DBAs to determine if it is still necessary for each to keep a user role. Meanwhile, the Department will implement a monitoring control to ensure either DBA is not entering and approving the same transactions."

Finding 15

Management of DEEP Trust Funds

Background	Section 3-32 of the General Statutes allows the State Treasurer to accept any bequest to the state of cash or securities.
Criteria	Bequests include provisions relating to the management and administration of funds. These funds should be monitored and reviewed regularly to ensure they are being utilized properly.
Condition	Our review of the balance in the eight trustee funds administered by DEEP as of June 30, 2024, noted the following investments appeared inactive: A \$23,921 balance is held in trust to benefit the Shakespeare Theatre State Park. DEEP transferred the related property to the Town of Stratford in 2005, and the theater burned down

in June 2019. The purpose of the trust is to employ personnel for the facility's repairs and restoration.

- A \$5,013,965 balance of is held for the development of Hopemead State Park. However, in the 1970s, the state decided against developing the park. It appears that there have been no withdrawals from this fund in nearly 40 years.

Context	DEEP is the beneficiary of 11 trust funds with a combined balance of \$43,990,979 as of June 30, 2024. DEEP administers eight of the trust funds, and three are managed by outside sources. The balance of the eight trust funds administered by DEEP totaled \$21,007,640, as of June 30, 2024.
Effect	Funds may not be utilized effectively.
Cause	DEEP is unable to meet the intended purpose of the trusts. DEEP indicated there are obstacles with developing the Hopemead property due to streams/wetlands in the area.
Prior Audit Finding	This finding has previously been reported in the last two audit reports covering the fiscal years 2018 through 2022.
Recommendation	The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should seek advice from the Office of Attorney General regarding the disposition of Shakespeare Theatre funds and use of Hopemead State Park funds.
Agency Response	"The Department agrees with this finding. DEEP migrated all trusts to State Street as of January 2023. The funds are now managed by the Office of the State Treasurer (OTT). The Department will seek advice from the Attorney General on the use of the Hopemead Trust account and the liquidation of the Shakespeare Theatre account."

Finding 16

Foundation Designation and Lack of Agreements

Background	The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection benefits from the existence of several "Friends of" organizations that are associated with various state parks or other facilities. The size and legal makeup of these organizations varies. Some actively fundraise, while others exist primarily to provide contributions of time by members. These organizations generally operate outside of state control and are governed by their own boards.
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By their nature, these organizations often can be operated informally with weak internal controls and a high turnover of officers. In similar environments, these conditions have led to misappropriations or the squandering of assets. In such cases, DEEP may be subject to criticism and a tarnished reputation. The result can be reduced participation by other members and difficulty in raising funds. This translates to a reduction in assistance to DEEP.

The RecycleCT Foundation was established by Section 22a-228a of the General Statutes. The foundation targets and promotes the coordination and support of research and education activities and public information programs aimed at increasing the rate of recycling and reuse in the state. Most of the funds it received since inception were from DEEP Supplemental Environmental Project funds. The commissioner of DEEP, or her designee, serves as chair on the board and department staff provides some administrative support.

Criteria

Sections 4-37e through 4-37k of the General Statutes specify requirements applicable to organizations that meet the definition of a foundation. These requirements include audit provisions, whistleblower policies, resource sharing agreements, and related state agency filing requirements.

Reports listing fundraising and other activities by organizations for the benefit of DEEP parks and forests should be prepared periodically to provide a true picture of the assistance provided.

Good internal controls require the establishment of written agreements between DEEP and "Friends of" organizations not considered foundations to coordinate their activities at state parks and forests with agency goals. A written agreement also should be established between RecycleCT Foundation and DEEP for the use of the department's staff and resources.

Condition

DEEP does not consider any of the "Friends of" organizations to be foundations. However, based on a review of their websites and tax forms, these organizations claim to primarily support state parks or forests.

We also noted that several of the "Friends of" organizations have access to areas of state parks that are not available to the public or hold fundraisers when the park is not available to the public. DEEP staff must be at the park during these events, and the department is not reimbursed for their hours. In addition, some "Friends of" organizations operate gift stores at state parks without written agreements. This includes Dinosaur State Park, Hammonasset, Gillette Castle, and Harkness.

The RecycleCT Foundation is affiliated with DEEP. We noted contact information on RecycleCT's website referred to a DEEP staff member

along with a DEEP address. However, the foundation does not have an agreement with DEEP for the use of its staff or resources.

Context

There are at least 20 organizations that could be impacted by one or more of the above conditions, because they appear to meet the statutory definition of a foundation.

Effect

There is a reduced assurance that DEEP is complying with Sections 4-37e through 4-37k of the General Statutes.

The type of assistance provided by the “Friends of” organizations to the parks and forests is not formally documented. Therefore, we could not determine how DEEP benefits from these organizations.

DEEP staff dedicated an undetermined number of uncompensated hours to the RecycleCT Foundation.

Cause

DEEP does not consider these organizations to be foundations under the statutory definition and has not entered into written agreements with them.

Prior Audit Finding

This finding has previously been reported in the last five audit reports covering the fiscal years 2012 through 2022.

Recommendation

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should pursue an Attorney General opinion concerning the applicability of laws governing foundations in relation to “Friends of” organizations.

The department should enter into written agreements with the “Friends of” organizations detailing their roles and activities and how they would benefit the state park or forest. The agreements should require reports from the organizations detailing how they should prepare and provide funds and activities to support the park or forest. The department also should enter into a written agreement with the RecycleCT Foundation.

Agency Response

“The Department conducted a thorough legal review to determine whether these groups meet the statutory definition of “foundations” under Sections 4-37e through 4-37k of the Connecticut General Statutes. Based on a close analysis of the statutes and a detailed review of prior Attorney General opinions, DEEP’s legal unit concluded that these groups do not meet the definition of foundations.

This legal analysis, along with supporting documentation, was provided to the Auditors during the previous audit via email dated December 11, 2018. The Department will continue to review these relationships as circumstances evolve to ensure compliance with

applicable laws. DEEP's position on this matter remains unchanged since the prior audit.

The Department agrees with the recommendation to establish written agreements with the "Friends of" groups and RecycleCT and has initiated discussions with each organization to that end."

Auditors' Concluding Comments

The Attorney General's opinions referenced by DEEP discuss the establishment of the entity for the principal purpose of receiving or using private funds that support or improve the state agency. The opinions also add that determinations of foundation status involve case-by-case analyses. In its response to us on December 11, 2018, DEEP noted that it did not believe the Friends of Harkness or any of its "Friends of" organizations mainly support DEEP, but work with DEEP as a partner.

Our recommendation suggests DEEP seek an Attorney General opinion specific to their circumstance to alleviate any ambiguity.

Finding 17

Lack of Central Database for Complaints

Background

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has several ways for the public to report environmental concerns and complaints on its website, depending on the type of complaint.

Criteria

State agencies that regularly receive citizen complaints should have a process to ensure that the division logging the complaint independently investigated and accurately reported the results to the commissioner and the public. The process should track all complaints from the date of receipt to the date of resolution.

Condition

DEEP does not maintain a central database of all complaints and their status. DEEP divisions log complaints in various locations and the department does not have an adequate centralized tracking system.

Context

There are at least five divisions that accept and investigate citizen complaints.

Effect

Without a central, transparent database of all complaints, we do not know whether the division satisfactorily resolved the complaints in a timely manner or performed a proper investigation. The failure to report complaint resolutions to senior management prevents the independent assessment of the conclusions reached, suggested

impact to agency procedures, reconciliation of assessment, and collection of recommended penalties.

Cause

DEEP is evaluating a long-term solution but did not have the resources to implement a formal tracking system during the audited period.

Prior Audit Finding

This finding has previously been reported in the last three audit reports covering the fiscal years 2015 through 2022.

Recommendation

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should implement a centralized tracking system for citizen complaints that identifies the date received, investigator, and date of resolution.

Agency Response

"The Department agrees with this finding and recognizes the importance of responding to environmental complaints from the public. As part of DEEP's 20BY26 initiative, Goal Five focuses on improving complaint intake systems. DEEP has already established reporting systems for the Emergency Response and Spill Prevention Unit, the Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division, and the Land and Water Resources and Water Permitting & Enforcement Divisions.

Additionally, any complaints received by the Commissioner's office are forwarded to the appropriate Bureau within the agency for investigation. Each Bureau also communicates complaints they are not the proper recipient of to the Commissioner's office for distribution to the appropriate unit. All complaints sent to the Commissioner's office, whether by the public or referring Bureau of DEEP, are tracked to ensure resolution. The Department will continue to expand these systems and develop a centralized methodology for tracking all complaints."

STATUS OF PRIOR AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Our [prior audit report](#) on the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Consumer Counsel, and the Connecticut Siting Council contained 24 recommendations. Eight have been implemented or otherwise resolved and 16 have been repeated or restated with modifications during the current audit.

Prior Recommendation	Current Status
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should revise its overtime and compensatory time policy for non-emergency personnel to document the preapproval of overtime and compensatory time. The documentation should include the reason for the time and justification as to why the work cannot be performed during regular hours.	REPEATED Modified Form Recommendation 2
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should ensure that all required forms for seasonal employees are in their personnel files and include necessary signatures.	RESOLVED
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should ensure that it prepares annual performance evaluations for all managers using the Performance Assessment and Recognition System.	REPEATED Recommendation 4
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should strengthen internal controls to ensure compliance with purchasing laws and retention standards.	RESOLVED
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should strengthen internal controls over purchasing card transactions by complying with the State Comptroller's Purchasing Card Manual, the department's Purchasing Card (P-Card) Program and internal procedures.	REPEATED Recommendation 6
The Public Utility Regulatory Authority should improve the process over payments to consultants to properly monitor invoices for statutory or policy limits, ensure transparency, and comply with Sections 16-8 and 16-18a of the General Statutes.	RESOLVED

Prior Recommendation	Current Status
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should work to issue water discharge permits on time. The department should immediately address permit applications that have been pending for more than ten years.	REPEATED Recommendation 7
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should consider the balance in the nuclear safety preparedness account prior to calculating assessments or seek legislation to amend the balance limitation in Section 28-31(a) of the General Statutes.	REPEATED Recommendation 8
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should strengthen internal controls over inventory to comply with the requirements in the State Property Control Manual and the State Comptroller's reporting instructions.	REPEATED Modified Form Recommendation 10
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should promptly notify the Auditors of Public Accounts and the Office of the State Comptroller of any losses and irregular handling of funds in accordance with Section 4-33a of the General Statutes.	RESOLVED
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should ensure that monthly mileage logs are prepared and approved for all its vehicles. The department should also upgrade its fueling stations to better account for fuel, or close its stations and require employees to use Department of Transportation facilities. The department should ensure that employees accurately complete fuel logs and include equipment numbers on all entries.	REPEATED Modified Form Recommendation 12
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should analyze its vehicle inventory and determine the number of vehicles it needs to operate efficiently. The department should improve its vehicle maintenance system by acquiring software to track its vehicle repair and maintenance costs.	REPEATED Recommendation 11
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should improve internal controls over equipment disposals to ensure compliance with the policies and procedures set forth in the State Property Control Manual. The department should also promptly remove disposed assets from its inventory list.	RESOLVED

Prior Recommendation	Current Status
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should improve its oversight over financial reporting of emergency spill receivables. The department should implement policies and procedures pertaining to the Emergency Response/Spill Prevention Unit's documentation of spills. The department should also request the federal government assume a share of the spill response costs when an unknown party is responsible for the contamination.	REPEATED Modified Form Recommendation 9
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should comply with all applicable statutory and GAAP reporting requirements. If information required by the statutes is no longer relevant or useful, the department should seek legislation to eliminate the requirement.	REPEATED Modified Form Recommendation 13
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should develop a comprehensive information technology disaster recovery plan. The department should routinely test its plan.	RESOLVED
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should maintain segregation of duties between its database administrators and user roles.	REPEATED Recommendation 14
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should seek advice from the Office of Attorney General regarding the disposition of Shakespeare Theatre funds and the use of Hopemead State Park funds.	REPEATED Recommendation 15
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should pursue an Attorney General opinion concerning the applicability of laws governing foundations in relation to "Friends of" organizations. The department should enter into written agreements with the "Friends of" organizations detailing their roles and activities and how they would benefit the state park or forest. The agreements should require reports from "Friends of" organizations detailing how they should prepare and provide funds and activities to support the park. The department also should enter into a written agreement with the RecycleCT Foundation.	REPEATED Recommendation 16
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should implement a centralized tracking system for citizen complaints that identifies the date received, investigator, and date of resolution.	REPEATED Recommendation 17

Prior Recommendation	Current Status
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should comply with the General Statutes and require that the Mattress Recycling Council promptly provide the department with the required audit of the program in accordance with Section 22a-905a(k) of the General Statutes.	RESOLVED
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should pursue legislation to update or repeal General Statutes which include related councils or committees that are inactive and may no longer be necessary.	RESOLVED
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should improve internal controls over its monitoring of Environmental Conservation Police to ensure the time reported by its officers is accurate and supported.	REPEATED Recommendation 3
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection should comply with requirements concerning employees placed on paid leave as provided for under Section 5-240-5a of the State Regulations.	REPEATED Recommendation 1

OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

We have audited certain operations of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Consumer Counsel, and the Connecticut Siting Council in fulfillment of our duties under Section 2-90 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The scope of our audit included, but was not necessarily limited to, the fiscal years ended June 30, 2023 and 2024. The objectives of our audit were to evaluate the:

1. Department's internal controls over significant management and financial functions;
2. Department's compliance with policies and procedures internal to the department or promulgated by other state agencies, as well as certain legal provisions; and
3. Effectiveness, economy, and efficiency of certain management practices and operations, including certain financial transactions.

In planning and conducting our audit, we focused on areas of operations based on assessments of risk and significance. We considered the significant internal controls, compliance requirements, or management practices that in our professional judgment would be important to report users. The areas addressed by the audit included payroll and personnel, revenue and cash receipts, accounts receivable, purchasing and expenditures, asset management, reporting systems, and information technology. We also determined the status of the findings and recommendations in our prior audit report.

The Department of Administrative Services administers limited human resource functions for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Our audit reviewed these functions, based on assessments of risk and significance, as they relate to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Our review did not include reviewing other aspects of the Department of Administrative Services' operations.

Our methodology included reviewing written policies and procedures, financial records, meeting minutes, and other pertinent documents. We interviewed various personnel of the department and certain external parties. We also tested selected transactions. This testing was not designed to project to a population unless specifically stated. We obtained an understanding of internal controls that we deemed significant within the context of the audit objectives and assessed whether such controls have been properly designed and placed in operation. We tested certain of those controls to obtain evidence regarding the effectiveness of their design and operation. We also obtained an understanding of legal provisions that are significant within the context of the audit objectives, and we assessed the risk that illegal acts, including fraud, and violations of contracts, grant agreements, or other legal provisions could occur. Based on that risk assessment, we designed and performed procedures to provide reasonable assurance of detecting instances of noncompliance significant to those provisions.

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

The accompanying financial information is presented for informational purposes. We obtained this information from various available sources including the department's management and state information systems. It was not subject to our audit procedures. For the areas audited, we identified

1. Deficiencies in internal controls;
2. Apparent noncompliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, policies, or procedures; and
3. A need for improvement in management practices and procedures that we deemed to be reportable.

The State Auditors' Findings and Recommendations section of this report presents findings arising from our audit of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Consumer Counsel, and the Connecticut Siting Council.

ABOUT THE AGENCY

Overview

[The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection \(DEEP\)](#) operates under the provisions of Titles 15 Chapters 263 and 268, 16, 16a, 22a, 23, 25 and 26 of the General Statutes. DEEP has jurisdiction over all matters relating to the preservation and protection of the air, water, and other natural resources of the State of Connecticut. The principal areas of operation, stated in terms of broad purpose, are as follows: conservation of land and water resources, parks and recreation, fish and wildlife, water resource management, solid waste management, air and water pollution, geological survey, and energy efficiency.

Organizational Structure

DEEP has three divisions: Energy, Environmental Conservation, and Environmental Quality. The Energy Division includes the [Public Utilities Regulatory Authority \(PURA\)](#), which reviews utility rates and the Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy, which develops energy efficiency, infrastructure, and alternative power programs. The Environmental Conservation Division is concerned primarily with natural resources represented by open spaces and underdeveloped land areas; fish life; streams and coastal areas; and state-owned parks and forests. The Environmental Quality Division maintains and improves the quality of the air, land, and water resources of the state by preventing pollution or mismanagement thereof by private, public, or business interests. Katie Dykes was appointed commissioner effective January 9, 2019, and continues to serve in that capacity.

Within the energy division, PURA operates under the provisions of Title 16, Chapter 277, Section 16-1 to 16-50f of the General Statutes. PURA regulates the rates and services of Connecticut's investor-owned electricity, natural gas, water, and telecommunications companies and is the franchising authority for the state's cable television companies. PURA is responsible for balancing the public's right to safe, adequate, and reliable utility service at reasonable rates with the provider's right to a reasonable return on investment. PURA monitors utility companies to promote equity among competitors, while customers benefit from competition and are protected from unfair business practices. As of June 30, 2024, PURA consisted of three commissioners appointed by the Governor: Chair Marissa Paslick Gillett, Vice-Chair John W. Betkoski III, and Commissioner Michael Caron. David Arconti was nominated to also serve as a commissioner, beginning August 2024.

The [Office of Consumer Counsel \(OCC\)](#) operates under the provisions of Title 16, Chapter 277, Section 16-2a of the General Statutes and is within DEEP for administrative purposes only. OCC advocates for consumer interests in matters that may affect Connecticut consumers related to public service companies, electric suppliers, and certified telecommunication providers. OCC participates in regulatory and judicial proceedings in which interests of Connecticut consumers may be involved, or in which matters affecting utility services rendered may be involved. OCC is a party to each contested case before PURA and may appeal decisions in any such proceeding. OCC is under the direction of a consumer counsel, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of either house of the General Assembly. The expenses of OCC are assessed in accordance with the provisions of Section 16-49. The Governor nominated Claire E. Coleman to serve as consumer counsel, effective December 3, 2021. She continues to serve in this role.

The [Connecticut Siting Council \(CSC\)](#) established under Title 16, Chapter 277a, Section 16-50j, is within DEEP for administrative purposes only. The council's primary mission is to provide a regulatory process for balancing the need for adequate and reliable public utility services with the need to protect the environment and ecology of the state. The council, in conjunction with DEEP, reviews and acts on applications for approval of sites for construction, operations, and maintenance of facilities for certain

electric and fuel transmission lines, electric generating or storage facilities using any fuel, electric substations or switchyards, community antenna television towers and head-end structures, telecommunication towers and hazardous waste facilities. Melanie Bachman served as Executive Director of CSC throughout the audited period.

The [Council on Environmental Quality \(CEQ\)](#), established under Section 22a-11 of the General Statutes, is within DEEP for administrative purposes only. The nine-member council can receive and investigate citizen complaints and refer such matters to the appropriate regulatory agency for action. Annual reporting to the Governor is required. Paul Aresta served as Executive Director of CEQ throughout the audited period.

Significant Legislative Changes

Notable legislative changes that took effect during the audited period are presented below:

- **Public Act 22-50 (Section 6)**, effective May 23, 2022, required the DEEP commissioner to give the release-based remediation advisory working group draft regulations at least 60 days before posting a notice of intent on the system to adopt, amend, or repeal the regulations. The working group must provide advice and feedback on the draft within 30 days after receiving it. The act also required the DEEP commissioner to convene at least one monthly meeting of the working group at least 15 days before posting the eRegulations notice.
- **Public Act 23-140 (Section 3)**, effective June 27, 2023, required the DEEP commissioner to maximize the state's receipt of federal funds designated for state climate change resiliency projects (e.g., coastal resiliency projects). Not later than January 1, 2024, the act required the commissioner to report on the maximization efforts biennially to the Environment Committee. The report must include identified federal funds, any application or request for funding that DEEP submitted, funds the state received, projects funded (in whole or in part), and recommendations for the state to maximize receiving federal funds.
- **Public Act 23-156**, Sections 1 and 2, effective July 1, 2023, required DEEP to develop and approve a hydrogen strategic plan by December 31, 2024 and extended certain wage and workforce requirements to hydrogen projects. Section 3, effective June 27, 2023 required DEEP to seek federal funding opportunities for projects that advance hydrogen in the state.
- **Public Act 23-202**, effective October 1, 2023, made changes to the state's environmental justice law, which generally requires applicants seeking to construct, expand, or site certain facilities in environmental justice communities to engage in a public participation process. The act required the DEEP commissioner to adopt any necessary and proper regulations to carry out the environmental justice law's purposes. It allows the Siting Council to follow the same regulations in a decision to approve an application. The act also allows DEEP or the Siting Council to deny a permit for a new affecting facility, if either finds that approving the permit would result in adverse cumulative environmental or public health stressors in the environmental justice community that are greater than those experienced in other communities.
- **Public Act 23-205 (Section 90)**, effective October 1, 2023, required the DEEP commissioner, in collaboration with the Department of Housing commissioner, to start a pilot program or programs to finance qualifying retrofitting projects in multi-family homes in environmental justice communities or alliance districts. The act required the DEEP commissioner, or a program administrator, to begin accepting applications for financing on July 1, 2024. Additionally, the commissioner must submit a report on the pilot program to the Housing Committee by October 1, 2027, that analyzes its success and recommends whether to establish a permanent program, including any related legislative proposals. Under the act, the pilot program ends on September 30, 2028.

Financial Information

General Fund Receipts

A summary of General Fund receipts during the audited period as compared to the preceding fiscal year follows:

Fiscal Year Ended June 30,			
	2022	2023	2024
Licenses and Sales/Use Tax	\$ 11,185,037	\$ 11,056,422	\$ 10,837,709
Fees	13,742,650	10,682,885	14,221,019
Permits	7,642,258	6,572,168	7,646,522
Sales – Commodities and Services	36,610	35,102	44,007
Rents, Fines and Escheats	1,235,626	5,546,941	1,030,005
Refunds and Miscellaneous	(625,444)	(608,599)	(638,111)
Total	\$ 33,216,737	\$ 33,284,919	\$ 33,141,151

General Fund receipts remained steady throughout the audited period. Fees decreased by approximately \$3 million in fiscal year 2023, primarily due to fewer pesticide applications. This was offset by an increase in rents, fines, and escheats resulting from a civil penalty.

General Fund Expenditures

A summary of General Fund expenditures during the audited period as compared to the preceding fiscal year follows:

Fiscal Year Ended June 30,			
	2022	2023	2024
Personal Services & Benefits	\$ 46,005,827	\$ 45,466,323	\$ 45,042,252
Premises and Property Expenses	1,251,940	1,429,670	2,111,029
Purchases & Contracted Services	5,055,787	6,487,501	4,965,410
Information Technology	1,978,403	1,180,049	1,360,413
Motor Vehicle Costs	609,357	677,170	726,511
Purchased Commodities	1,198,761	1,477,710	1,374,390
Capital Outlays	401,984	380,572	110,348
Fixed Charges	129,360	2,347,525	2,551,102
Employee Expenses	154,375	251,429	281,101
Other Charges	50,020	88,057	(212,805)
Total	\$ 56,835,814	\$ 59,786,006	\$ 58,309,751

General Fund expenditures grew by about \$3 million in fiscal year 2023, primarily due to increases to fixed charges, which consists of pass-through grants for various new programs. The slight decrease from fiscal year 2023 to 2024 was mainly the result of less purchases and contracted services needed.

Federal and Other Restricted Accounts Fund Receipts

A summary of Federal and Other Restricted Accounts Fund receipts during the audited period as compared to the preceding fiscal year follows:

Fiscal Year Ended June 30,			
	2022	2023	2024
Non-Federal Aid-Restricted	\$ 102,297,219	\$ 106,138,370	\$ 123,800,465
Federal Aid-Restricted	60,243,957	45,787,269	42,240,499
Community Investment Account	4,052,539	2,864,559	2,517,701
Grant Transfers and Other	(32,635)	1,245,414	1,253,020
Total	\$ 166,561,080	\$ 156,035,612	\$ 169,811,685

The fluctuation in federal aid from fiscal year 2022 through 2024 is primarily due to the timing of drawdowns. The increase in non-federal aid is the result of several factors, mainly the result of legislative changes from Public Act 22-25 and Public Act 24-81, affecting the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and the Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate program.

Federal and Other Restricted Accounts Fund Expenditures

A summary of Federal and Other Restricted Accounts Fund expenditures during the audited period as compared to the preceding fiscal year follows:

Fiscal Year Ended June 30,			
	2022	2023	2024
Personal Services & Benefits	\$ 46,806,189	\$ 52,443,630	\$ 52,267,800
Fixed Charges - Grants	31,463,768	27,576,826	55,382,490
Other Charges - Includes RGGI	46,586,173	58,658,268	46,566,694
Purchases & Contracted Services	5,161,197	12,314,785	23,270,071
Capital Outlays	2,091,002	1,210,000	651,905
Premises and Property Expenses	(890,111)	5,368,692	6,391,211
Capital Outlays - Equipment	332,894	962,642	1,808,883
Information Technology	1,339,956	1,163,510	2,473,868
Motor Vehicle Costs	1,931,699	2,185,701	2,463,893
Purchased Commodities	1,357,108	1,830,510	2,030,457
Employee Expenses	197,240	402,122	417,866
Capital Outlays-Building	529,179	1,576,687	6,699,750
Total	\$ 136,906,294	\$ 165,693,373	\$ 200,424,888

Expenditures increased in both fiscal year 2023 and 2024. The growth in fiscal year 2023 was primarily due to increases in personal services & benefits for additional staff at state parks, program expenses associated with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and additional contracted services for management of the Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate program. The growth from fiscal year 2023 to 2024 was largely the result of increased grant expenses for various programs, including the Clean Water project. In addition, there was a large one-time payment to a consultant for assistance with the Weatherization program.

Consumer Counsel/DPUC Fund

This fund includes receipts and expenditures for the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, formerly known as the Department of Public Utility Control, and the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC). PURA is part of

the energy branch of DEEP, and OCC is part of DEEP for administrative purposes only. PURA expenses and revenue are accounted for in this fund, a special revenue fund in accordance with Section 16-48a of the General Statutes. Amounts in this fund may be expended only pursuant to appropriation by the General Assembly, and any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year is to be carried forward to the succeeding fiscal year. Receipts consist primarily of assessments on utility companies. Revenues and expenditures during the audited period, and the preceding year, are summarized below.

Fiscal Year Ended June 30,			
Revenue	2022	2023	2024
Recoveries of Expenses	\$ 33,263,852	\$ 32,407,591	\$ 35,466,482
Fees for Examination	15,900	13,250	17,250
Other Fees and Refunds	90	130	60
Total	\$ 33,279,842	\$ 32,420,971	\$ 35,483,792

Fiscal Year Ended June 30,			
Expenditures	2022	2023	2024
Personal Services & Benefits	\$ 24,454,586	\$ 24,062,329	\$ 25,660,465
Premises and Property Expenses	647,472	681,709	712,466
Indirect Overhead - Federal	(280,031)	306,838	203,340
All Other Expenditures	796,552	560,686	569,502
Total	\$ 25,618,579	\$ 25,611,562	\$ 27,145,773

Revenues and expenditures remained relatively flat from fiscal years 2022 through 2024. The increase in expenditures from fiscal year 2023 to 2024 was primarily due to wage increases.

Grants to Local Governments and Other Funds

The Grants to Local Governments and Others Fund is used by various state departments to account for bond authorizations for grants to local governments, organizations, and individuals. Expenditures totaled \$17,571,657 and \$18,217,287 during the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years, respectively. Most of the expenditures were for remediation at hazardous waste disposal sites, land acquisition grants, energy microgrids, and the Connecticut Bikeway.

Clean Water Fund

The Clean Water Fund (CWF) operates under the provisions of Section 22a-475 through 22a-483 of the General Statutes. Within the fund, there is a water pollution controls state account and a water pollution control federal loan account. The fund provides for financial assistance to municipalities and others for the planning, design, and construction of water quality projects and improvements. Revenues are derived from federal grants and can fluctuate depending on timing of drawdowns. Revenues totaled \$2,242,141 and \$10,965,255 during fiscal years 2023 and 2024, respectively.

Expenditures during the audited period, and preceding year, are summarized below.

Fiscal Year Ended June 30,			
	2022	2023	2024
State Account	\$ 45,822,092	\$ 41,889,775	\$ 51,925,135
Federal Account	108,993,923	49,978,876	50,448,200
Total	\$ 154,816,015	\$ 91,868,651	\$ 102,373,335

Expenditures represent DEEP expenditures only and were primarily for grants and administrative expenses from the state account and loans from the federal account.

Independent public accountants audited the Clean Water Fund for the period under review.

Capital and Non-Capital Project Funds

Expenditures from capital and non-capital project funds totaled \$45,370,030 and \$36,604,594 during the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years, respectively. These were primarily for community conservation and development, energy projects, and state park renovations. There were no revenues recorded for the Capital and Non-Capital Project Funds.

Trust Funds

DEEP is responsible for various trustee accounts. The balance of accounts in which DEEP has authority to administer totaled \$26,580,732 as of June 30, 2024.

Council on Environmental Quality

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is within DEEP for administrative purposes only. The accounting of operations is reported in the Federal and Other Restricted Accounts Fund. CEQ assesses and reports on Connecticut's environment and advises state agencies on environmental impacts of proposed construction projects. CEQ also investigates citizen complaints and allegations of violations of environmental laws. There were no significant revenues for CEQ during the audited period. CEQ expenditures were \$197,680 and \$252,200 during the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years, respectively.

Office of Consumer Counsel

The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) advocates for consumer interests in matters that may affect Connecticut consumers related to public service companies, electric suppliers, and certified telecommunication providers. The accounting of operations is reported in the Consumer Counsel/DPUC Fund. There were no significant revenues for OCC during the audited period.

OCC expenditures during the audited period, and preceding year, are summarized below.

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30,		
	2022	2023	2024
Personal Services & Benefits	\$ 2,368,727	\$ 3,101,337	\$ 3,320,711
Premises & Property Expenses	116,290	124,556	135,954
Purchases & Contracted Services	32,653	55,547	191,744
Indirect Expenses	33,590	56,441	90,972
Employee Expenses & Allowances	29,175	40,444	35,742
Other	41,491	23,110	23,203
Total	\$ 2,621,926	\$ 3,401,435	\$ 3,798,326

The increase in expenditures throughout the audited period was primarily due to approved wage increases and added staffing.

Connecticut Siting Council

The Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) is with DEEP for administrative purposes only. The accounting of operations of the council are within the Siting Council Fund. Receipts consisted primarily of assessments on applicable energy and telecommunications services, and recoveries of expenditures from applicants

for costs incurred for conducting hearings and proceedings, in accordance with Section 16-50v of the General Statutes. Revenues and expenditures during the audited period, and the preceding year, are summarized below.

Fiscal Year Ended June 30,			
Revenues	2022	2023	2024
Expense Recovered by Public Service	\$ 1,937,457	\$ 1,205,248	\$ 1,406,413
Expense Recovered by Electric Power	785,692	791,597	1,074,882
Environmental Certification Fees	897,569	798,522	747,011
Other Miscellaneous Fees	201	0	3769
Recoveries - General	(748,460)	(819,078)	(918,280)
Total	\$ 2,872,459	\$ 1,976,289	\$ 2,313,795

Revenue fluctuations are based on the number of dockets and petitions filed by each industry and the actual expenses and corresponding reimbursements related to each case.

Fiscal Year Ended June 30,			
Expenditures	2023	2023	2024
Personal Services & Benefits	\$ 1,499,657	\$ 1,547,902	\$ 1,454,323
Other Charges - Indirect Overhead	122,745	115,150	127,852
Purchases & Contracted Services	99,893	63,787	92,835
Premises and Property Expenses	70,573	75,222	98,212
Purchased Commodities	1,613	1,233	2,572
Information Technology	12,665	2,981	840
Employee Expenses & Allowances	550	440	610
Motor Vehicle Costs	4,889	5,089	2,788
Fixed Charges	-	4,984	5,977
Total	\$ 1,812,585	\$ 1,816,788	\$ 1,786,009

Expenditures remained relatively flat throughout the audited period.