

# COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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*Executive Director*

DATE: November 20, 2018

TO: Ms. Betsey Wingfield,  
Bureau Chief, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse  
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

FROM: Susan D. Mellow, Chair

RE: Request by the University of Connecticut to reduce the sampling frequency at the monitoring wells for its former landfill site, known as the "chem pit"

The contamination resulting from the unfortunate disposal practices of earlier decades at the University of Connecticut in Storrs resulted in a Consent Order (# SRD 101) that required quarterly monitoring and measures to reduce risk from the chemicals contained within the site. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), in April of 2010, approved a reduction in sampling frequency from quarterly to semi-annual, due to reports of slight improvements in the samples.

In 2018, the University requested a further reduction to annual sampling. The Council was informed that this request was met with concern by the Town of Mansfield (letter of August 30, 2018). It was the response of DEEP, (letter by William Warzecha of October 12, 2018) to postpone a decision on whether to reduce the frequency pending the results of the October samplings (Round 29).

Council staff reviewed the monitoring results that were available for the years 2015 through 2018. The review showed that two deep bedrock wells (MW-105R and B201R) continue to show exceedances in excess of DEEP's Ground Water Protection Criteria. The Council urges that consideration be given to continuation of semi-annual monitoring at these wells and at any other locations which exceed DEEP's remediation standards.

Sincerely

Susan D. Mellow

CC: William Warzecha,  
Paul Ferri,  
Derrick M. Kennedy,  
Michael Soares

