



Connecticut  
Association of  
Water  
Pollution  
Control  
Authorities, Inc.



March 1, 2021

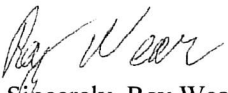
Raised Bill No. 927, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Sewage Spill Right-To-Know Statute

The Connecticut Association of Water Pollution Control Authorities (CAWPCA) and the Connecticut Water Environment Association (CTWEA) formerly Connecticut Water Pollution Abatement Association supports the adoption of this bill. However, we do have a concern with the language in “Part 3” which reads as follows:

*(3) On and after July 1, 2018, not later than two hours after becoming aware of any sewage spill that [exceeds five thousand gallons or that is anticipated to exceed five thousand gallons] may present a threat to public health or the environment, considering the potential for human exposure or exposure of aquatic life, respectively, and any other relevant factors, the operator of a sewage treatment plant or collection system shall notify the chief elected official, or such official's designee, and the local health director of the municipality where the sewage spill occurred.*

We feel that the shift from **“a spill that exceeds five thousand gallons”** to one **“that may represent a threat to public health or the environment”** puts an onus on the Operator to make a quick decision on what may or may not constitute a threat when there are countless variables to consider. Frankly, there are times an Operator may simply not have enough information to make an informed decision. While we strongly support transparency and quickly notifying the public when spills occur, we would like to see some more clearly defined direction as to when we should or should not be notifying the local health department and elected officials.

Another concern we have about reporting continues to be the electronic reporting system. As CT DEEP is well aware this system can be problematic, both in terms of reports being finalized and email confirmations of receipt not always being sent. We are hopeful that beneficial changes will be coming to this system soon so that, as WPCA Operators and Managers, we can be sure that these reports are getting out to the public in a timely and accurate manner.

  
Sincerely, Ray Weaver  
CTWEA President

Town of Manchester

  
Thomas V. Sgroi, PE  
CAWPCA President

Director of Engineering  
Greater New Haven WPCA

*The Connecticut Water Environment Association (CTWEA) is the local affiliate of the New England Environmental Association (NEWEA) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF). The CWPAA represents Connecticut's 80+ Water Pollution Control Facilities and a network of over 500 certified operators serving more than 2,000,000 Connecticut residents.*

*The Connecticut Association of Water Pollution Control Authorities (CAWPCA) is a group of members dedicated to improving, enhancing knowledge and understanding the interests of publicly owned/operated WPCA's or wastewater management entities within the State of Connecticut. The CAWPCA represents its members as well as the 150+ Connecticut WPCAs serving more than 3,000,000 sewered and non-sewered residents.*