



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Public Hearing – February 23, 2011
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Amey W. Marrella
Department of Environmental Protection

Senate Committee Bill No. 249 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE REMEDIATION OF THE RAYMARK SUPERFUND SITE IN STRATFORD

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Senate Committee Bill No. 249 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE REMEDIATION OF THE RAYMARK SUPERFUND SITE IN STRATFORD. The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) offers the following testimony.

The bill would require the Department to report on the potential sources of revenue available to fund the remediation of the Raymark federal Superfund site. Given the significant size of the site, complexity of the issues, and variety of potential remedies and costs, the Department believes a briefing would be more productive than the report identified in the bill. Allowing for a briefing, rather than a report, would provide for a more efficient allocation of Department resources.

The Raymark federal Superfund site is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, commonly known as the Superfund program. The Superfund program protects human health and the environment by locating, investigating and cleaning up hazardous waste sites, and engaging communities throughout the cleanup process. The Raymark federal Superfund site is comprised of a large number of properties, grouped into nine categories called Operable Units. Some of the Operable Units themselves consist of numerous properties (e.g., Operable Unit 6 consists of approximately 24 separate properties).

The Raymark federal Superfund site is a "Fund lead" site, meaning that there are no viable responsible parties performing the remediation. Instead, the citizens of the United States and Connecticut through the federal and state government will pay for the remediation of the site. EPA and the state were able to secure some funds from the responsible party as a result of cost recovery and bankruptcy proceedings in the 1990s; of those funds approximately \$20 million remains available for investigation and remediation of the sites. All cost estimates for remedy alternatives at the eight remaining Operable Units collectively far exceed the \$20 million currently available (Operable Unit 1 was remediated in the 1990s and the state performs and funds ongoing operation and maintenance of that remedy).

Under Superfund, additional federal funds would typically come from the federal Superfund process for ranking requests for funds at Fund lead sites. The Raymark federal Superfund site

would be competing for funds with other Superfund sites across the nation. The Superfund law requires a state to provide a 10% share of the cost of remedies selected at Fund lead sites (and a 50% cost share for remedies at properties owned by the state or the Town, of which there are a few at the Raymark federal Superfund site). Remedies for the remaining 8 Operable Units have not yet been selected by EPA.

To conclude, the Department would welcome the opportunity to meet with and brief the bill's sponsors and other interested members of the General Assembly on background, status and potential sources of funds for cleanup at the Raymark federal Superfund site.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Department's views on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact the Department's legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance, at (860) 424-3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov.