



FY 27 Budget Questions from Ranking Member Nuccio – Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Headcount Questions:

1. What is your current headcount? *See table below*
 - a. Total headcount: **total appropriated: 760**
 - b. Of the total, how many are Funded headcount: **760**
 - c. Of the funded, how many Actual headcount: **655**
 - d. Open/vacancies headcount: **105**
 - i. Are these opens part-time or full-time resources?
These are full-time resources

*These numbers should tie (example):

- a. Total headcount: 100
- b. Funded headcount: 90
- c. Actual headcount: 80
- d. Open headcount: 10
 - Full-time = 8
 - Part-time = 2

(Funded) 90 – (Actual) 80 = (Open) 10

	Total	Funded	Actual	Open
GF	563	563	483	80
STF	46	46	50	-4
PUC	151	151	122	29
total	760	760	655	105

**as of 2/6/2026*

***the four STF positions over the funded headcount represent FTEs that are charged to CT DOT for infrastructure project permitting in accordance with an MOU between the two agencies*

2. Is there is change in headcount (either up or down) for this budget ask?
Yes, the Governor’s budget adds three full-time General Fund positions to DEEPs budget.
 - a. If there is a positive change in headcount, please explain what the positions are and what is driving the need for the positions

Provide Funding for Staff to Support Implementation of the Release-Based Cleanup Regulations - \$146,574 and two positions: In April 2025, the Legislative Regulation Review Committee approved the Release-Based Cleanup Regulations (RBCRs). These regulations implement Public Act 20-9, which sunset the Connecticut Property Transfer Act – the state’s primary program for pollution cleanup – and established a release-based cleanup framework. This transition aligns Connecticut with 48 other states that utilize a release-based approach and eliminates long-standing barriers to property redevelopment under the Transfer

Act. Under the RBCRs, all new spills and newly discovered historical releases must comply with uniform cleanup standards. This consistency will:

- Accelerate remediation timelines
- Reduce cleanup costs
- Provide clarity for property owners regarding compliance requirements

Accelerating remediation and promoting property redevelopment are expected to yield substantial economic benefits for Connecticut. A March 2019 report by the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (now AdvanceCT) estimated that, between 2014 and 2018, the Transfer Act resulted in the loss of approximately 8,000 jobs and more than \$170 million in state and local revenues due to “foregone operations.”

At DEEP’s request, economists from the CT Department of Economic and Community Development recently conducted an updated analysis using current data. For the five-year period beginning in 2019, the analysis projected that properties constrained by the Transfer Act could have generated over 4,000 manufacturing jobs and more than \$100 million in additional state revenues.

These two new positions will support emergency response, auditing, and enforcement activities associated with the implementation of the RBCRs, which take effect March 1, 2026. These roles are essential to ensure timely responses to environmental emergencies and effective enforcement of the new regulatory framework.

Provide Funding for Staff to Support Emergency Spill Response Cost Recovery - \$76,039 and one position: Connecticut experiences spill incidents, including oil, petroleum, chemical, and biological releases, nearly every day that threaten public health and the environment. DEEP receives approximately 6,500 spill reports annually, with the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) responding to about 1,900 incidents per year. While response activity and the number of high-cost, complex spills have increased, ERU staffing remained steady. Individual incidents can cost tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars, and cumulative annual response costs can reach millions. When responsible parties cannot be identified or otherwise do not address such emergencies and environmental impacts caused by releases or other hazardous materials incidents, DEEP must take actions to mitigate such emergencies and remove such impacts, and DEEP bears the associated costs.

State law (CGS § 22a-451) requires that DEEP recover its costs in those cases. Yet cost recovery efforts have been limited, hindering the Department’s ability to

recoup expenses and contributing to deficiency appropriations. Even with limited staffing, DEEP recovered approximately \$857,000 in FY24 and FY25. The Governor's budget funds one dedicated position to support spill response cost recovery, allowing DEEP to pursue recoveries more efficiently and consistently. This investment is expected to generate significantly more in recovered costs each year than the cost of the position, strengthen compliance with statutory requirements, and reduce future budget pressures on the State.

- i. If these adds are legislatively driven, what piece of legislation is driving the increase?
 - ii. If they are not legislatively driven, please indicate which program is increasing if there is one
 - b. If there is a reduction, please explain what is driving the reduction
 - i. Are the positions being transferred to another area?
3. Does this budget ask include the open/vacant positions above?
The budget items above adds three full-time positions to DEEP's General Fund Personnel Services budget starting on 7/1/2026
 - a. If yes, how are they budgeted into your plan? (Please explain for all opens – if you have ten opens then explain for all ten)
 - i. Are these full time or part positions?
 - ii. What is the anticipated start date of your vacancies?

*Please detail by number, for example: There are 10 open positions – 8 are full-time and 2 are part-time. We have built them into the budget as follows. 8 full-time positions are expected to be filled on 07/01 and 2 part-time positions are expected to be filled on 01/01

4. How many opens/vacancies did you have at the prior year end on 06/30/2025? **88**
 - a. How many vacancies did you start the prior year with (07/01/2024)? **97**
 - b. How many people left throughout the year either via leaving, retiring, or transferring? **40**
 - c. How many new hires did you have in the same time period (07/01/24-06/30/25)? **68**

*For example-- all of these numbers should tie. Started 2023 with 20 vacancies, 2 left for retirement, hired 12. This should tie to your opens above – $20+2-12=10$. **Note – these numbers don't agree using the formula, because the numbers for hires and departures include positions funded using federal and other non-appropriated funds.**

5. What is the average salary of your open positions? **\$86,238**

Lapse Questions: *(please provide the numbers and not a link to the comptroller's report)

1. Were there any lapsing accounts on 06/30/2025? **Yes**
 - a. If yes, what were the accounts? **GF, STF, PUC**
 - b. If yes, what was the lapse balance? **GF - \$10,660,220; STF - \$10,000,396; PUC - \$3,088,441**
 - c. If yes, what drove the lapse? **The GF lapses were mostly related to legislatively directed grant funding from previous budget years that is still in process. The \$10,000,000 lapse in STF was carryforward funding from the 2022 legislative session appropriated by PA 22-118 Sec. 12(71) for \$10,000,000 in FY 23 to support a voucher program for (A) medium and heavy duty zero-emission vehicles and buses, and (B) installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. This funding was held back and not carried forward into the current biennial budget.**

2. Please provide the starting Personnel Services budget number and the ending Personnel Services number. Please do not include any dollars that may have been moved via the FAC process. Just total non adjusted budgeted PS line item and total ending PS line item. **See table below:**

	PS Budget	PS Actual	PS Lapsed
GF	\$ 23,397,708	\$ 23,397,415	\$ 293
STF	\$ 3,741,269	\$ 3,741,173	\$ 96
PUC	\$ 16,784,307	\$ 16,440,785	\$ 343,522
total	\$ 43,923,284	\$ 43,579,373	\$ 343,911

3. Where there any dollars for new programs/legislation that did not kick off? **No**
 - a. If so what were the programs/legislation?
 - b. What prevented implementation of the program?

4. If there is a lapsing balance, do you anticipate it carrying forward? **We do not anticipate a lapsing balance.**
 - a. If yes, how do you propose to use that lapse?
 - b. Will it be for one-time expenses?
 - i. If so, what are those one-time expenses?
 - c. If ongoing expense is that expense built into this budget in FY 27?

ARPA Questions:

1. Are there still ARPA funds included in this budget? **No**
 - a. If yes, when will the funding be fully utilized

Audit Questions:

1. Have you reviewed your agencies latest audit finding? **Yes**

2. Have you implemented the recommendations with no fiscal impact?

- a. If so, please provide explanation of what you have changed to meet audit expectations.

The SFY 2023 - 2024 audit report, published on December 10, 2025, contained 17 findings, 16 of which were repeated from prior audits. Eight findings were resolved from the previous audit period. The remaining findings largely required strengthening of internal controls, documentation, monitoring, and compliance processes.

Since the end of the last audit period (which the latest report covers), DEEP has implemented corrective actions to address those recommendations, including:

- Reinforcing overtime and compensatory time preauthorization requirements and implementing bi-weekly reviews of earned overtime and compensatory time.
- Strengthening purchasing card controls by implementing an electronic tracking log and updating internal policies.
- Enhancing procurement controls by improving monitoring of purchase orders and reinforcing timely commitment of funds.
- Coordinating with DAS Human Resources to implement enhanced tracking and reporting within the PARS system to ensure timely completion and documentation of annual managerial evaluations.
- Establishing centralized tracking of legislatively required reports and assigning responsibility to ensure timely submission.
- Reviewing database administrator access levels and implementing monitoring controls to ensure compliant segregation of duties.
- Expanding divisional complaint tracking systems and initiating development of a centralized methodology to monitor complaint intake, assignment, and resolution.
- Formalizing written agreements with affiliated organizations to clarify roles, reporting responsibilities, and use of state resources.
- Implementing enhanced fleet utilization and mileage monitoring controls through deployment of a fleet management system.

The findings related to managerial evaluations, statutory reporting compliance, mileage monitoring, purchasing card reconciliation, segregation of duties, and complaint tracking are procedural in nature. Monitoring mechanisms are now in place, and DEEP expects these items to be resolved in the next audit cycle as the strengthened controls operate for a full audit period.

3. If your agency has a recommendation with a fiscal impact, do you know what that annualized impact is?

Certain potential enhancements, including additional physical security measures at asset locations or appraisal services for specialized assets could involve future costs depending on the scope of implementation decisions; however, the specific annualized fiscal impact is unknown.

General Questions:

1. Is there anything you would change about this budget? **No**
2. Is there anything you would add to this budget? **No**

3. Is there anything you would remove from this budget? No
4. Is there any legislation that was passed you feel you are not adequately prepared to implement?
No
 - a. If so, what would we need to change to make it implementable?