Permit Ombudsman

The Office of the Permit Ombudsman will coordinate and expedite permits and approvals with the departments of Environmental Protection, Transportation, and Public Health for projects that:

- Create at least 50 permanent, full-time equivalent non-construction jobs in any of the state's 17 enterprise zones or at least 100 such jobs elsewhere in the state;
- Clean up and develop abandoned or under used property (e.g. brownfields);
- Are compatible with the state's responsible growth initiatives;
- Develop a mix of different but compatible uses near transportation facilities and infrastructure (e.g. transit-oriented development);
- Develops green technology businesses (i.e. a business that employs at least 25% of its workers in jobs that use or develop green technology or fall into state occupation codes for green jobs).

DECD is always looking for projects that create jobs and capital investment. We have discretion to review other projects based on economic impact. Factors considered are:

- A projects' proposed wage and skill levels compared to those in surrounding areas;
- How a project will diversify and strengthen the local and state economies;
- A project's total capital investment; and
- Whether a project complements the local and state strategic economic development priorities.

Activities Excluded from Expedited Review:

- Final disposal sites for solid, biomedical, or hazardous wastes;
- Produce electricity, unless the production is incidental and not the project's primary function;
- Extract natural resources;
- Produce oil; or
- Construct, maintain, or operate an oil, petroleum, natural gas, or sewerage pipeline.

Application Process:

1. Applicants should complete and submit an expedited permitting screening application and checklist, which can be located at www.ct.gov/ecd.
2. Permit Ombudsman will review to determine if projects meet program qualifications.
3. If eligible, projects will be rated and ranked to prioritize according to economic impact.
4. Applicants will be notified within 10 business days from the receipt of completed applications if projects qualify. The notice will explain the next steps, which may include submitting more project materials.
5. An initial meeting will be scheduled promptly upon receipt of additional information.

Point of Contact:
Maya Loewenberg
DECD Permit Ombudsman
Office of Responsible Development
(860) 270-8248
Maya.Loewenberg@ct.gov