

**From:** [Glenn, V'Hesspa \(she/her/hers\)](#)  
**To:** [Harrison, Brenda](#)  
**Cc:** [Hoang, Anhthu](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Follow Up on 02RNO-23-R1  
**Date:** Friday, March 3, 2023 11:56:58 AM

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Good Afternoon,

Would you mind docketing the below as an additional complaint to the Hartford/MDC matter—this time against Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP). This one, too, is race, color, and national origin. Could you also prepare the acknowledgement letters?

Please and thank you!!

V'Hesspa

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**From:** (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 8:47 AM  
**To:** Glenn, V'Hesspa (she/her/hers) <Glenn.VHesspa@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Hoang, Anhthu <Hoang.Anhthu@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Follow Up on 02RNO-23-R1

Thank you Ms. Glenn:

This is exactly what I am alleging. The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has neglected to protect the residents who have suffered due to the city of Hartford, DEEP & MDC's negligence.

The victims have definitely been negatively impacted to include health disparities. Consequently, DEEP has not referred any of these cases to the Department of Public Health.

Furthermore, during our February 6, 2023 meeting with Administrator David Cash, Enforcement Director James Chow and Civil Rights Director Sharon Wells; DEEP Manager Graham Stevens revealed that DEEP was giving the MDC another \$4 BILLION because the MDC didn't have the money to do the work...to include separating the CSOs. Why isn't the FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice called to do a forensic audit of federal funds/grants given to the MDC.

It is my strong opinion that Commissioner Katie Dykes and Graham Stevens are working in the interest of MDC, and it's stakeholders. To this point, MDC CEO Scott Jellison stated that the next steps to the recent sewage overflow complaints — is for the MDC and the city to conduct a \$900,000.00 study. So, there are no immediate plans to provide maintenance and service to correct the flooding and sewer overflow problems in the North End of Hartford.

To date, no punitive action has been taken against the MDC's violations despite the fact that the EPA and DEEP have taken legal action against MDC.

It is also evidenced that when the predominantly white West Hartford encountered sewage backup; MDC corrected the problems immediately. In addition, MDC was mandated through a September 2022 Consent Decree, to repair 15,000 feet of pipes in the urban community, by December 2022. When Graham Stevens was asked for evidence that MDC completed this work, Stevens said that he reached out to MDC, but MDC was not responding.

Unfortunately, the health and the welfare of the Black community is neither a priority, nor a concern, to DEEP, the State of Connecticut, and the City of Hartford, Connecticut.

Thank you.

(b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy

On Tue, Feb 28, 2023, 7:15 AM Glenn, V'Hesspa (she/her/hers) <[Glenn.VHesspa@epa.gov](mailto:Glenn.VHesspa@epa.gov)> wrote:

Good Morning,

Thank you for participating in a Teams call on February 9, 2023 and a brief phone call on February 15, 2023. Based on those conversations, we understand that your complaint also includes allegations against the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (CT DEEP) water protection programs and its discrimination against the residents of the "North End" of Hartford and the predominantly Black community based on race. You indicated that members of this community have been subjected to negative health and environmental impacts resulting from sanitary sewer overflows and backflows and a lack of stormwater and flood control. From the information you have provided us, you also allege that CT DEEP has failed to take appropriate action with regard to ensuring that funding is allocated and used to conduct sewer repair work and completing and/or overseeing sewer repair work (such as separating sewage from the storm sewers and the installation of back water valves) in Hartford's predominantly Black North End community.

I note under our regulations that complaints must be in writing. If this message is an accurate summary of your allegations, please respond to this email to confirm your intent to include these allegations in your complaint.

Best,

V' Hesspa Glenn, Case Manager  
[Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights](#)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
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202-564-8029 | [glenn.vhesspa@epa.gov](mailto:glenn.vhesspa@epa.gov)