

08/05/2025

Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council  
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center  
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3  
Wakefield, RI 02879

**Re:** Request for Hearing — CRMC File No. 2025-06-055  
Dredging of RI Fast Ferry Basin; Upland Disposal at Parcel 7A, Quonset Business Park

Dear CRMC Chair and RIDEM Water Quality Certification Officials:

I hereby request a **public hearing**, under the Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 42-35 of the Rhode Island General Laws), regarding the above-referenced application (Joint Public Notice dated July 8, 2025). This request is submitted in writing and received before the deadline of **August 8, 2025**, as stated in the notice [crmc.ri.gov+2North Kingstown+2](https://crmc.ri.gov+2North+Kingstown+2).

### Reason for Request

I am a concerned abutter residing near the **Quonset Fast Ferry Basin**, immediately affected by the proposed dredging and upland disposal at Parcel 7A within the Quonset Business Park. This project has direct implications for:

- water quality in Narragansett Bay,
- potential disturbance of contaminated sediment connected to ongoing Superfund-related pollution,
- recreational and ecological impacts near the bike path and shoreline,
- and public health implications for nearby residents due to airborne dust or runoff during dredging and dewatering.

### Legal Basis for Objection

Per the public notice, those who have reason to protest the proposed work may do so via sworn testimony at a hearing. I request the opportunity to do so, and expect to review the application materials and plans in detail beforehand, in order to articulate specific laws or regulations that may be violated by the proposed activity [crmc.ri.gov](https://crmc.ri.gov).

### Request for Information

Please confirm:

1. The **date, time, and location** of the hearing once scheduled.
2. How I may **inspect the application file and plans**, including access to sediment data or environmental assessments at CRMC's Wakefield office.
3. The process by which individuals such as myself will be notified of hearing logistics.

### Conclusion

Thank you for your attention to this request for a hearing. Given the direct environmental and health concerns around this dredging project, I respectfully ask that you provide the public with a meaningful opportunity to participate. I look forward to your acknowledgment and scheduling of a hearing on this matter.

Sincerely,  
  
Mary Shaw

159 Candlewood Dr. North Kingstown RI 02852

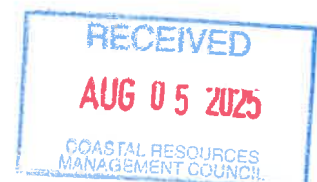
401 474 0323

[marveshaw@verizon.net](mailto:marveshaw@verizon.net)

cc:  
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235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767

Enclosure : Photocopy

M Sherman email  
attachment 8-6-2025



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includes requiring employers to provide reasonable accommodations and protecting individuals from being denied employment opportunities or promotions—or from being terminated—due to these conditions. The new law adds menopause to this list of protected health conditions.

“Menopause is a difficult and personal subject that has been stigmatized in this country,” said Sen. Urso in a statement announcing the bill’s passage. “But as something that affects half our population, it’s time we recognize it as a workforce issue—especially as our workforce ages along with our population. The current lack of protections contributes to inadequate retirement savings and lost leadership opportunities for women and poses an economic challenge for employers

pausal symptoms at any given time, accounting for more than 10% of Rhode Island’s entire working-age population.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 75% of women in the U.S. labor force are working during their menopause transition years, making workplace engagement around women’s health issues vital.

“Addressing menopause in employment practices is critical because it affects employee well-being, retention, and productivity,” said Angela Lima, policy and advocacy program director at the Women’s Fund of Rhode Island. “These changes benefit both workers and employers.”

A Mayo Clinic study estimated that menopause symptoms cost U.S. businesses \$1.8 billion in lost productivity annually. The

in her article “It’s Time to Address Menopause at Work,” Claire Hastwell, content program manager at Great Place to Work, calls for employers to support women with menopausal symptoms. She notes this can improve employee well-being, retention, and business outcomes.

“But women who grapple with menopause rarely find workplace support, official company guidelines, or a sympathetic ear,” she writes. “Employees experiencing menopause need to know their employer has their back. Without support, businesses risk losing some of their most senior and skilled workers.”

Supporting menopausal women in the workplace can enhance retention and engagement, boost productivity, reduce health risks, and improve morale, Hastwell adds.

## LETTERS

# Quonset Point Superfund site still needs accountability

What does “Public Notice” and “Public Meeting” actually mean?

Between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. on weekdays, when thousands of people exit Quonset Development Corporation (QDC) properties — are they simply leaving work, or are they passing through an active Superfund site?

Each June, a federally required Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting is held to inform the public about pollution and cleanup progress at the former Naval Construction Battalion Center in Davisville — now Quonset Point. I’ve attended these meetings faithfully for years because I live here. The contaminated soil was once piled

directly in front of my home. My husband lived with that until the day he died. I have no official proof, but I believe that exposure contributed to his death. That belief is why I keep showing up — to bear witness.

This year’s meeting, held June 26, 2025, was a hollow shell of what it used to be. I received a postcard saying the meeting would take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 95 Cripe Street. I called to confirm, then went. Only two women were there, struggling to set up a Zoom call. There were no presenters, no documents, and no sign-in sheet. At 11:30 a.m., we were finally admitted to the virtual meeting — which had clearly already started. A screen

displayed slides with unreadably small text, and a list of anonymous attendees labeled only by initials. No names. No faces. No accountability.

Where were the officials we had come to rely on? Carol Keating (EPA Region 1, retired), Richard Gottlieb (RI DEM, retired), David Barney (Navy, relocated), and Steven King (QDC, presumably still involved but absent). These were the people I expected to see.

I was the only civilian in that room. And I am 76 years old. I’m not fluent in Zoom meetings, but I know a box-checking exercise when I see one. The Navy says the toxic underground plume is still being monitored as it moves

toward Narragansett Bay. Maintenance continues under the label of QDC “property upkeep,” which—according to a letter from RI DEM—means neighbors don’t have to be notified.

I’m not writing to cause trouble. I’m writing because this is my neighborhood, and I have lived the consequences of this pollution. When a “public meeting” occurs without the public — what exactly is being restored?

To learn more:

<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.cleanup&id=0101430>

Mary Shaw  
North Kingstown



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RECEIVED

AUG 05 2025

COASTAL RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Superfund site still needs accountability

Can anyone answer my questions?

1. What does "Public Notice" and "Public Meeting" actually mean?

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Mary Shaw, North Kingstown

### Join the conversation

We want to hear from you. Your Turn commentaries should be no more than 600 words, including a short bio of the writer. Letters to the editor should be no more than 250 words; we prefer 150 or fewer.

**For both:** Include your full name, full address and phone number. Write the text in the body of an email, or copy it in; don't attach a file of any kind. Then send them to [letters@providencejournal.com](mailto:letters@providencejournal.com), our address for both letters and longer pieces.

### Emergency alert safety warnings

The deadly Camp Mystic tragedy in Texas questions our lack of Public Safety Alerts in all public occupied spaces throughout our country.

The current government means is Integrated Public Alert Warning System by FEMA and is integrated with the National Weather Service for state, local, territorial and tribal system public alerts.

These systems inform all of possible hazardous conditions with sirens, emergency telephone networks and digital road signs.

The types of hazardous incidents that will need prior alarms for safe evacuation are: tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, fires, earthquakes and tsunamis. They should also have the public informed if an active shooter incident is happening close by.

Now is the time for a national review of all our early warning safety alert systems.

Our lives may be presently at risk when traveling to new destinations that do not have an early warning detection system in place.

Bob Sweeney, Warwick

### Iowa's lower electric rates

This is in response to the letter to the editor about Iowa's lower electric rates from wind power (July 6): Iowa pays less for electricity because Rhode Island's natural gas rates are 70% higher than Iowa because New York and New England don't want more pipeline capacity. Also, wind turbines offshore are much more expensive to build, maintain, and to transport than land based wind turbines.

If you think more offshore wind turbines are our salvation to lower electric rates you are living in a fantasy world.

Tony Ricci, North Providence

End of M. Sherman  
email of 8/6/2025

08/05/2025

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235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767

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