

New Regulations are Coming That Will Affect Delaware's Coastal Zone

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) is developing new regulations for Delaware's Coastal Zone. As a Coastal Zone resident, we want you to know what is happening — and how you can have a say in the process.

What is going on?

First, a bit of background: In 1971, the Delaware General Assembly passed the Coastal Zone Act (CZA), a law that prohibited new heavy industrial development in the state's Coastal Zone. The CZA aimed to balance economic development and natural resource protection.

In 2017, the Delaware General Assembly amended the CZA to allow new heavy industrial development in limited areas in the Coastal Zone. These changes looked to boost the economy in a responsible manner by allowing new heavy industrial development only on 14 sites where heavy industry had been in place when the CZA was passed in 1971. Other changes to the CZA also encourage responsible development. This includes new requirements for heavy industry developers to prepare their sites for sea level rise and to demonstrate they can pay for environmental damages that may occur on their sites down the road.

Heavy industrial development on any of these sites must be approved by DNREC under a new permit called a "conversion permit". DNREC is in the process of writing new regulations for conversion permits and wants to reach out to communities beforehand.



Former Citi Steel site in Claymont, one of the 14 sites where new heavy industrial development could happen.

What is "heavy industrial development"? What exactly can be built?



Four of the sites (outlined in blue above) are in Claymont, right near the PA border.

Heavy industrial development are facilities that use structures like smokestacks, tanks, chemical processing equipment, and waste-treatment ponds to run their business. They usually take up more than 20 acres of land. For example, a chemical manufacturing plant is heavy industrial development. Not all heavy industrial development is allowed in the Coastal Zone. For example, oil refineries, incinerators, steel plants, and liquefied natural gas terminals are still not allowed, even on the 14 sites.

Where are these sites located?

13 sites are in New Castle County, 1 site is in Kent County. See a map of all 14 sites at de.gov/czmap.

When will these new regulations be written?

A final version of the regulations must be written by October 1, 2019. To help come up with ideas for what to include in these regulations, DNREC formed a Regulatory Advisory Committee (RAC) of 17 people representing different interests from around the Coastal Zone (e.g., environmental, labor/union, government, community, and public health). We expect to have a complete version of

draft regulations ready for public review and comment by mid-June 2019. There are also opportunities for you to give input and feedback before then.

How can I get involved?

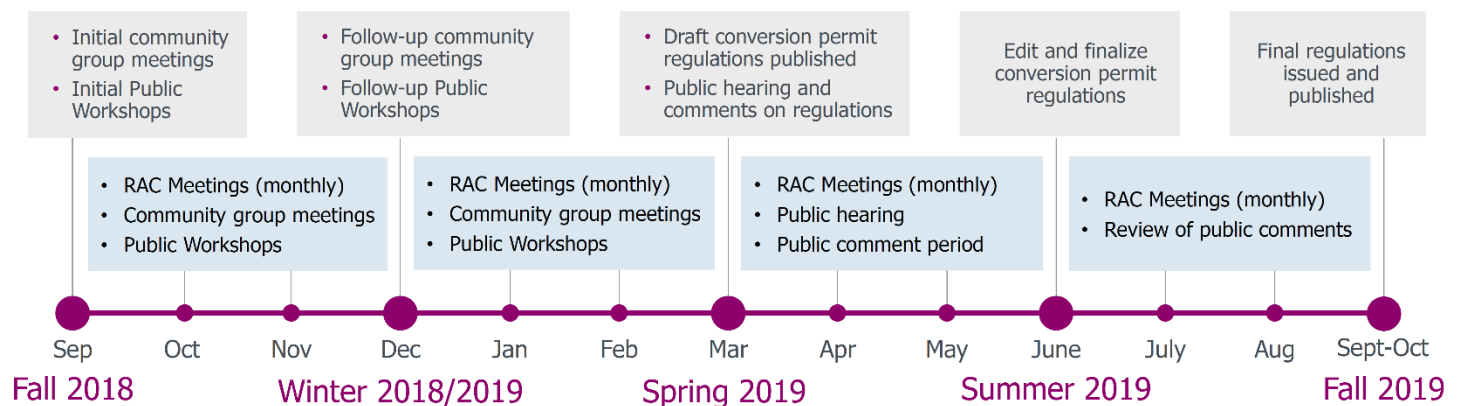
Community input can have a big impact on the new regulations. DNREC is reaching out to communities early on to listen to their interests and concerns. Over the next few months, you can:

- **Provide written public comment to be considered by the RAC in their recommendations to DNREC.** Send your comments to DNREC using any of the following:
 - Email: CZA_Conversion_Permits@state.de.us
 - Mail: Division of Climate, Coastal, & Energy, 100 W. Water St., Suite 5A, Dover, DE 19904
 - Fax: (302) 739-1840
- **Attend and provide public comment at an in-person meeting or event.** This includes:
 - RAC Meetings (meets monthly, meeting notices posted at de.gov/czcpaarc)
 - Public Workshops in late 2018/early 2019 (dates TBD)

You can also receive meeting and event updates by signing up for our email listserv (see below) or by visiting de.gov/czcpameetings for the most up-to-date details.

- **Sign up for our email listserv to get information alerts and updates on meetings and events.** To sign up, simply send a blank email to: join-dnrec_coastal_zone@lists.state.de.us
- **Schedule a meeting for your community group with DNREC.** Provide us your group's contact information on our Community Information Submission Form so DNREC can reach your group directly. You can fill out the form at de.gov/communityform.

Below is a rough timetable of the regulation development process. This may change over time, but it should give you a general idea of what is happening when.



Thank you for your interest in helping to shape the future of the Coastal Zone. If you have any other questions about this process, visit our website at de.gov/conversionpermits or reach out to Ian below.

Ian Yue, DNREC Coastal Planner
Coastal Zone Act Program – Regulatory Development Process

Email: ian.yue@state.de.us

Phone: (302) 735-3480

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