



**EBC Rhode Island Webinar  
Environmental Compliance and Enforcement: A Review of 2021 and What to  
Watch Out for in 2022**

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

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**Program Co-Chairs**

Christian Capizzo, Partner, Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP  
Christine E. Dieter, Partner, Hinckley Allen

9:00 a.m.     **Welcome:** Rick Mandile, Chair, EBC Rhode Island Chapter  
Principal, SAGE Environmental

**Program Introduction**

- Christian Capizzo, Program Co-Chair  
Partner, Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP

9:20 a.m.     **RIDEM Compliance and Inspection Updates and Overview**

- David Chopy, Administrator, Office of Compliance & Inspection  
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

9:40 a.m.     **USEPA Region 1 Enforcement and Compliance Assurance**

- James Chow, Deputy Director, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1

**10:00 a.m. Moderated Discussion**

**Moderator:** Christine E. Dieter, Program Co-Chair  
Partner, Hinckley Allen

**Panel Members:**

- David Chopy, RI DEM
- James Chow, U.S. EPA, Region One

**10:30 a.m. Adjourn**

**PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS**

**Christian Capizzo**, Partner  
Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP  
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Recognized for his ability to unify disparate groups and facilitate change, Christian concentrates his practice in the areas of environmental and energy law, land use, and public sector/governmental services. With over 15 years of experience, Christian is uniquely positioned to navigate clients throughout New England through the complex ever-changing world where environmental/ energy regulation and business intersect. His experience includes a diverse range of complex environmental and energy matters including enforcement, regulatory and compliance issues, large scale renewable energy projects (solar and offshore wind), real estate development, environmental remediation including brownfields, construction, coastal permitting and waterfront property rights. He has represented clients before the Coastal Resources Management Council, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission, the Energy Facility Siting Board.

He has represented landowners and project developers in real estate transactions, renewable energy development deals, and financing transactions associated with these projects. He plays an integral role evaluating and mitigating environmental risks relating to development projects and business transactions, as well as providing key strategy on renewable energy projects.

Christian served in the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office for over 10 years where he had a proven track record of successfully litigating high profile criminal and civil cases. He led the Environmental Crimes Task Force, handling litigation on complex environmental issues impacting Rhode Island. Christian worked as outside legal counsel for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management handling enforcement matters, drafting legislation, and negotiating diverse environmental matters. Christian also worked closely with the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Department of Agriculture and various state agencies and attorney generals throughout the United States.

Christian is nationally recognized for developing and implementing environmental training programs and is a sought-after presenter on a myriad of topics with a focus on emerging and complex environmental/energy issues and trends.

**Christine E. Dieter**, Partner  
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Christine practices in Hinckley Allen's Environmental and Energy Practice Groups and in the Litigation practice. She handles a wide variety of environmental regulatory and litigation matters, and has extensive experience with permitting for large-scale renewable energy projects, including offshore wind farms and solar facilities.

Christine represents regional utilities in proceedings before state regulatory agencies and related litigation, including before the Rhode Island Supreme Court and Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. She assists with permitting and other regulatory matters for owners and developers of energy generation projects and provides regulatory advice regarding project development.

## **SPEAKERS**

**David Chopy**, Administrator, Office of Compliance & Inspection  
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908  
(401) 222-1360 ext. 27777400 | [david.chopy@dem.ri.gov](mailto:david.chopy@dem.ri.gov)

David Chopy is the Administrator of the Office of Compliance and Inspection (OCI). OCI has a staff of 24, comprised of engineers, environmental scientists and administrative staff. OCI is responsible for the regulatory enforcement activities related to Air, Waste, and Water. OCI investigates complaints and suspected violations of environmental laws and regulations relating to surface water, ground water, freshwater wetlands, onsite wastewater treatment systems, dams, solid waste, hazardous waste, medical waste, underground storage tanks, and air (visible emissions, odors, fugitive dust and exterior lead paint removal). In addition to complaint response, OCI carries out compliance monitoring of regulated activities involving hazardous waste generators, underground storage tanks and dams.

OCI coordinates its compliance and enforcement activities with RIDEM's Offices of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management, Air Resources, Water Resources, Emergency Response and Customer and Technical Assistance regarding their compliance monitoring of regulated, permitted, or licensed activities and facilities. OCI further coordinates with RIDEM's Office of Legal Services and other state agencies such as the Office of the Attorney General and with federal regulatory enforcement agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Initial compliance is handled through warnings, letters of deficiency, notices of intent to enforce and referrals to permitting programs for compliance. OCI issues formal enforcement actions against regulated facilities or activities when complaint investigation or compliance monitoring discovers significant noncompliance. Formal enforcement includes issuance of legal orders and assessment of penalties that are subject to appeal and enforceable through the courts.

David has worked at RIDEM for 37 years in Water Pollution and Enforcement program areas. He is a registered Professional Engineer, with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from URI.

**James Chow**, Deputy Director, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division,  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1  
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James Chow is the Deputy Director of EPA Region 1's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division. His duties include managing a staff of over 60 engineers and scientists responsible for implementing EPA's regulatory enforcement and compliance programs in New England. Program areas include air, water, hazardous waste, wetlands, pesticides import, asbestos, lead, chemical safety, and other programs.

James has worked at EPA Region 1 for over 23 years in Brownfields, Superfund, and RCRA program areas in addition to regulatory enforcement, and worked at a national environmental consulting firm for 5 years as a project manager and geologist prior to joining EPA. James is a registered Professional Geologist, with a B.A. in Chemistry and M.A. in Geology from Boston University, and an MBA from Babson College.