

November 2011

# NomineeAlert

## McCarthy's Background

Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency

Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Environmental Quality

Deputy Secretary of Operations, Massachusetts Office of Commonwealth Development

Undersecretary of Policy, Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA)

Assistant Secretary of Pollution Prevention, Environmental Business and Technology, EOEA

Executive Director of the Administrative Council of the EOEA

Executive Secretary, Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Site Safety Council, EOEA

Chairwoman, Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Site Safety Council, EOEA

Member, Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Site Safety Council, EOEA

Environmental Officer, Town of Stoughton, Massachusetts

## EDUCATION

B.A., University of Massachusetts, Boston

M.S., Environmental Health Engineering and Planning and Policy, Tufts University



## this issue:

Gina McCarthy,  
Assistant Administrator  
for the Office of Air and Radiation,  
Environmental Protection Agency

## Who is Gina McCarthy? Environmental Cop

On March 16, 2009 President Obama nominated Gina McCarthy to be the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation at the Environmental Protection Agency. McCarthy also worked for Mitt Romney and helped create and implement his Climate Protection Action Plan.

While McCarthy served as Assistant Secretary of Pollution Prevention, Environmental Business and Technology, the

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was notified that its vehicle emissions tests were flawed. Cars that should have failed were being passed, and vice versa. Sierra Research, which was hired by Massachusetts to review the testing program, wrote that the false failures rate was "the highest by far ever

seen by Sierra" [emphasis added]. The DEP first responded by having Sierra Research massage the numbers. Then the DEP checked the testing machines and found that about half

were not functioning, but it continued to administer the faulty test. Fn.1.

On her watch, accidental drownings continued at Connecticut parks. Between 1999 and 2007, 21 people drowned. Three more died during the summer of 2007. *The New York Times*, after noting that Gina McCarthy was well aware of the

lifeguard staffing problem at state parks, wrote, "The summer season is over at Squantz Pond [State Park], but the spotlight must remain on the Department of Environmental Protection's mismanagement of this park." Fn.2.

**"McCarthy has a both a troubling record of mismanagement and a dangerous desire to tell other people how to live and run their businesses. Her nomination should have been rejected."**

*-Bill Wilson, President,  
Americans for Limited Government*

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## Sources for further reading:

**Fn.1.** [http://www.peer.org/docs/ct/05\\_18\\_1\\_ma\\_mccarthy.pdf](http://www.peer.org/docs/ct/05_18_1_ma_mccarthy.pdf)

**Fn.2.** <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9406E5D7163FF93BA15752C0A9619C8B63&sec=&spo n=>

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9D0DE2DB173DF935A2575AC0A9619C8B63>

**Fn.3.** <http://www.newhallinfo.org/june26QA.html>

<http://www.hamdendailynews.com/ArchivesHoodJanJune2007.html>

[http://www.cga.ct.gov/apa/pdf2006/DEP\\_Special\\_Report\\_Newhall.pdf](http://www.cga.ct.gov/apa/pdf2006/DEP_Special_Report_Newhall.pdf)

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/NewhallStreet/newhall-p1.html>

**Fn.4.** <http://www.cpb.org/program/where-we-live/episode/dep-commissioner-gina-mccarthy>

**Fn.5.** <http://www.cpb.org/program/where-we-live/episode/dep-commissioner-gina-mccarthy>

**Fn.6.** <http://www.cpb.org/program/where-we-live/episode/dep-commissioner-gina-mccarthy>

# What you really need to know about McCarthy

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McCarthy pursued the Newhall Remediation Project, the largest residential environmental remediation project in Connecticut history, even though there was no evidence that it was necessary. The project aims to remove lead, arsenic, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) by removing and replacing the top four feet of soil in the Newhall community. This project has dragged on for years, worried and inconvenienced residents unnecessarily, and wasted millions of taxpayer dollars.

According to Meg Harvey, an epidemiologist with the Connecticut Department of Public Health, there was “no public health threat from lead, arsenic, or PAHs.” She went on to state that there were “no signs that children in neighborhood have blood lead now” after the contamination had been in place for decades. She continued on to say that “health survey results do not look unusual” and “published cancer rates for Hamden do not look unusual.”

This boondoggle cost the Olin Corporation (the parent company of Winchester Repeating Arms) and Connecticut taxpayers \$80 million.

McCarthy also gave a no-bid contract for the remediation project to supporters of Governor Rell. The Auditors of Public Accounts reviewed the management of the project, issued criticism of the DEP’s handling of the project, and referred the matters to the Connecticut Attorney General’s Office for review. Among other things, the auditors were concerned that work was being performed by Loureiro Engineering Associates (LEA) without prior approval, and that LEA billed the DEP for work that occurred *three years* after the maximum length of the “emergency” service contract.

As if the DEP and LEA had not done enough, the state auditors’ report also noted that the DEP and LEA sent vague and even factually incorrect letters to residents that lived near the “contamination zone” that raised unnecessary fears. The auditors wrote, “The communications from LEA and the DEP did not provide sufficient information for residents to understand the extent of the problem and what remediation was likely to be necessary. In summary, we found the communications might not be useful to the residents of the area, and could produce anxiety in any resident who received this type of report.” Even McCarthy acknowledged the mistakes. Fn.3.

She would prefer to regulate small businesses rather than large businesses. As a state regulator, she complained that the priorities of the Environmental Protection Agency were not theirs and provided funding to regulate large businesses rather than small businesses. Fn.4.

She claimed that reducing greenhouse gas emissions would save businesses money. Fn.5.

Apparently, McCarthy would like to fine people who do not recycle. Fn.6.

### NomineeAlert

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