

Vermont Bar Association  
Environmental Law Day 2019  
Capitol Plaza, Montpelier  
June 20, 2019

8:30 - 10:00 - Legislative and Legal Development Related to Water Law

Speakers: Matt Chapman, General Counsel, Agency of Natural Resources  
Katelyn Ellermann, Associate General Counsel, Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Jon Groveman, Policy & Water Program Director, Vt Natural Resources Council  
Ron Shems, Tarrant, Gillies, & Richardson

Panel discussion on major events in Vermont water law. The panel will discuss recent environmental court decisions on the Lake Champlain TMDL and wastewater treatment facilities, legislative changes that effect clean water and wetlands, and an overview of changes made to ANR regulations affecting surface water and groundwater.

10:00 - 10:15 Break

10:15 – 10:45 - Continue with Legislative and Legal Development Related to Water Law

A continuation of the morning's panel discussion focusing on major federal clean water litigation including cases related to water quality certifications, the scope of the Clean Water Act, and the potential effects of these federal cases on Vermont's regulatory environment.

10:45 - 11:15 - Review of Noteworthy Environmental and Land Use Decisions in Vermont

Speakers: Ron Shems, Tarrant, Gilles, & Richardson  
Dan Richardson, Tarrant, Gillies, & Richardson

Dan and Ron will discuss significant cases in the Environmental Division and Supreme Court.

11:15 - 12:15 - Review of Energy and Telecom Bills in Vermont Legislature

Speakers: Warren Coleman, MMR, LLC  
Joslyn Wilschek, Wilschek Iarrapino Law Office, PLLC  
Amber Widmayer, MMR, LLC

The panel will review significant developments regarding energy and telecom including legislation regarding weatherization and energy efficiency utilities, renewable energy permitting, broadband expansion, and cases around grid constraint issues around the Sheffield-Highgate Export Interface (SHEI).

12:15 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 2:30 - Legislative and Legal Development Related to Toxic Law

Speakers: Matt Chapman, General Counsel, Agency of Natural Resources  
Warren Coleman, MMR  
Jon Groveman, Policy & Water Program Director, VT Natural Resources Council

Over the past several years there has been a great deal of activity surrounding emerging contaminants, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and toxic substances. The panel will provide an overview of legislative regulatory activities on toxics, major cases and activities taking place in Vermont and other jurisdictions, and what it may mean for municipalities and industries.

2:30 -2:45 Break

3:00 - 4:30 - Review of Proposed Changes to Act 250

Speakers: Warren Coleman, Esq. MMR  
Jon Groveman, Policy & Water Program Director, VT Natural Resources Council  
Jamey Fidel, General Counsel, Vermont Natural Resources Council

The House Natural Resources Committee spent considerable time on a Committee bill that would modernize Act 250. Speakers will address the key issues being considered including: Act 250 jurisdiction, appeals and administration, criteria, and addressing trails.