

**City of New York  
Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings  
Environmental Control Board**

**Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Rule**

**What are we proposing?** The Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings' Environmental Control Board (OATH ECB) proposes to repeal its Community Right-To-Know Penalty Schedule rule. This schedule is currently found in Section 3-104 of Subchapter G of Chapter 3 of Title 48 of the Rules of the City of New York (RCNY). The Community Right-To-Know Penalty Schedule contains penalties for summonses issued by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for violations of Chapter 7 of Title 24 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York. DEP is proposing a related rule adding a similar Community Right-To-Know Penalty Schedule to Chapter 41 of Title 15 of the RCNY.

**When and where is the Hearing?** OATH ECB will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule. The public hearing will take place from **10 a.m. through 11:00 a.m. on October 3, 2018**. The hearing will be in the OATH 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room located at 66 John Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10038.

**How do I comment on the proposed rules?** Anyone can comment on the proposed rule by:

- **Website.** You can submit comments to OATH ECB through the NYC rules website at <http://rules.cityofnewyork.us/>.
- **Email.** You can email written comments to Rules\_Oath@oath.nyc.gov.
- **Mail.** You can mail written comments to OATH, Attention: Simone Salloum, Senior Counsel, 100 Church Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10007.
- **Fax.** You can fax written comments to OATH, Attention: Simone Salloum, Senior Counsel, at (212) 361-1900.
- **Hearing.** You can speak at the hearing. Anyone who wants to comment on the proposed rule at the public hearing must sign up to speak. You can sign up before the hearing by calling OATH at (212) 436-0708, or you can also sign up in the hearing room before the hearing begins on **October 3, 2018**. You can speak for up to three (3) minutes.

**Is there a deadline to submit written comments?** You may submit written comments up to **5:00 p.m. on October 3, 2018**.

**What if I need assistance to participate in the Hearing?** You must tell us if you need a reasonable accommodation of a disability at the Hearing. You must tell us if you need a sign language interpreter. You can tell us by mail at 100 Church Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY

10007. You may also call OATH by telephone at (212) 436-0708 to request a reasonable accommodation. Please tell us by September 26, 2018.

This location has the following accessibility option(s) available: Wheelchair Accessible.

**Can I review the comments made on the proposed rule?** You can review the comments that have been submitted online by visiting the NYC rules website at <http://rules.cityofnewyork.us/>. A few days after the hearing, a transcript of the hearing and copies of the written comments will be available to the public at OATH, 66 John Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10038.

**What authorizes OATH ECB to make this rule?** Section 1049-a of the New York City Charter (City Charter) authorizes OATH ECB to make this proposed rule. This proposed rule is included in OATH's regulatory agenda for this Fiscal Year.

**Where can I find OATH ECB's rules?** OATH ECB's rules are in Title 48 of the Rules of the City of New York.

**What laws govern the rulemaking process?** OATH ECB must meet the requirements of Section 1043(b) of the City Charter when creating or changing rules. This notice is made according to the requirements of Sections 1043(b) and 1049-a of the City Charter.

### **Statement of Basis and Purpose of Proposed Rule**

The Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings' Environmental Control Board (OATH ECB) proposes to repeal its Community Right-To-Know Penalty Schedule rule. This schedule is currently found in § 3-104 of Subchapter G of Chapter 3 of Title 48 of the Rules of the City of New York (RCNY), and it contains penalties for violations of the Community Right-To-Know Law, codified in Chapter 7 of Title 24 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York. This penalty schedule provides the penalties for violations relating to the siting and storage of hazardous substances stored in portable containers. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proposing a related rule adding a similar Community Right-To-Know Penalty Schedule to Chapter 41 of Title 15 of the RCNY, including one new violation of 15 RCNY § 41-14.

The context for this proposed repeal is that OATH ECB is in the process of repealing all penalty schedules in its rules codified at Subchapter G of Chapter 3 of Title 48 of the RCNY so that they can be incorporated into the rules of the agencies having rulemaking and policymaking authority over the laws underlying the violations. Such repeals will also serve OATH's core function of adjudication and help alleviate the false public perception that OATH is an enforcement agency, rather than a neutral tribunal.

Although OATH ECB is empowered to impose penalties under the New York City Charter and has until now promulgated penalty schedules, the regulatory and enforcement agencies have the necessary expertise to determine appropriate penalties for violation of the rules and of the laws within their jurisdiction based on the severity of each violation and its

effect on City residents. Moving the penalty schedule to the enforcement agency's rules will also make it easier for the public to find the penalties, which will be located within the same chapter as the rules supporting the violations alleged in the summonses. Finally, the proposed rule repeal will speed up the rulemaking process by eliminating the need for OATH ECB approval of proposed or amended penalties for agency rules that have already been established by the legislature and/or that have already undergone the City Administrative Procedure Act (CAPA) process by the enforcement agency. The public will still have the opportunity to comment on proposed penalties during that process.

Working with the City's rulemaking agencies, the Law Department, the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, and the Mayor's Office of Operations conducted a retrospective rules review of the City's existing rules, identifying those rules that could be repealed or modified to reduce regulatory burdens, increase equity, support small businesses, and simplify and update content to help support public understanding and compliance. This proposed rule repeal was identified as meeting the criteria for this initiative.

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**Section 1. The Community Right-To-Know Penalty Schedule rule, found in Section 3-104 of Subchapter G of Chapter 3 of Title 48 of the Rules of the City of New York, is REPEALED.**

**NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF LEGAL COUNSEL  
100 CHURCH STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
212-356-4028**

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO  
CHARTER §1043(d)**

**RULE TITLE:** Repeal of Community Right-To-Know Penalty Schedule

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 2018 RG 100

**RULEMAKING AGENCY:** Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings' Environmental Control Board

I certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed rule as required by section 1043(d) of the New York City Charter, and that the above-referenced proposed rule:

- (i) is drafted so as to accomplish the purpose of the authorizing provisions of law;
- (ii) is not in conflict with other applicable rules;
- (iii) to the extent practicable and appropriate, is narrowly drawn to achieve its stated purpose; and
- (iv) to the extent practicable and appropriate, contains a statement of basis and purpose that provides a clear explanation of the rule and the requirements imposed by the rule.

/s/ STEVEN GOULDEN  
Acting Corporation Counsel

Date: August 22, 2018

**NEW YORK CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE OF OPERATIONS  
253 BROADWAY, 10<sup>th</sup> FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
212-788-1400**

**CERTIFICATION / ANALYSIS  
PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 1043(d)**

**RULE TITLE: Repeal of Community Right-To-Know Penalty Schedule**

**REFERENCE NUMBER: OATH-ECB-89**

**RULEMAKING AGENCY: Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings**

I certify that this office has analyzed the proposed rule referenced above as required by Section 1043(d) of the New York City Charter, and that the proposed rule referenced above:

- (i) Is understandable and written in plain language for the discrete regulated community or communities;
- (ii) Minimizes compliance costs for the discrete regulated community or communities consistent with achieving the stated purpose of the rule; and
- (iii) Does not provide a cure period because it does not establish a violation, modification of a violation, or modification of the penalties associated with a violation.

/s/ Francisco X. Navarro  
Mayor's Office of Operations

August 22, 2018  
Date