

# **ATLANTIC COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2012**

Atlantic County covers 567 square miles and is located on the outer coastal plain of New Jersey. The coastal plain dips gently from west to east, so that most of the hills and highest elevations occur in the western part of the County. The soil of Atlantic County is sandy, with low clay content. The sand along with the layers of clay forms a wedge a mile thick at the shore. Within this wedge are two aquifers: the Cohansey and Kirkwood formations. These contain great quantities of readily available groundwater. Water from the Cohansey provides the base flow for all the streams and rivers in the county. Atlantic County's northern border is the Mullica River with the Great Egg Harbor River and Tuckahoe Rivers forming the southern border. The eastern border is the Atlantic Ocean. The Western border is a manmade line separating Atlantic County from Camden and Gloucester counties.

Atlantic City has always been a major driving force in the overall development of Atlantic County. Historically, Atlantic City served as a seaside destination while today it is world renowned as a casino resort. While the casino industry has had a tremendous impact on the development of Atlantic County, regulatory legislation at the State level has also significantly affected County development trends in the past three decades.

With the exception of a part of Buena Borough, Atlantic County falls entirely into the regulated areas of the Pinelands Commission and the New Jersey Division of Coastal Resources (CAFRA). Areas along the Egg Harbor River, Patcong Creek and the Mullica River also fall under CAFRA. Both of these regulatory agencies influence development in Atlantic County. CAFRA attempts to steer growth to designated coastal Centers throughout the CAFRA area. Enactment of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan concentrates growth in Egg Harbor, Galloway, and Hamilton Townships.

Atlantic County has a population of 274,549 (2010 census). The County is incorporated into 23 municipalities, ranging in size from Corbin City (492) to Egg Harbor Township (43,323). Between 2000 and 2010 Atlantic County's population grew by 21,997 persons or 8.7 percent. Atlantic County's population is still growing; the increase continues to be concentrated in Egg Harbor Township, Galloway Township and Hamilton Township.

Following National and Statewide trends, Atlantic County's racial composition also has become more diverse as we move into the future. The largest change from the last census was seen in the Asian population, which increased from 30,729 to 46,241 (50.5% increase). Atlantic County's Hispanic (or Latino) population also had a significant increase from 12,771 to 20,595 or a 61.3% increase since 2000. Between 2000 and 2010, the white population had a small increase (4.0%) while the black population decreased slightly (-0.9%).

This diversity in Atlantic County's geography and population is reflected in the diverse tasks of the environmental health services that are provided in the County. In the course of the day employees may be involved in ocean, bay or lake water sampling, potable water sampling of a homeowners well, responding to a hazardous materials release involving an underground storage tank, investigating an off-site odor and noise complaint allegedly originating from a solid waste facility, inspecting a septic system in various stages of construction or performing an indoor air quality survey at a school at the request of the superintendent. The unifying factor is protecting the public's health from immediate danger, as well as working to ensure a safe and healthy environment for generations.

It must be understood that the separation of responsibilities under the strategic plan into six different goals is somewhat arbitrary. Many problems fall under more than one goal. For example: An investigation conducted as a result of a contaminated well actually involves strategic goals under Clean and Plentiful Water, Safe and Healthy communities, and Open and Effective government.

In general, Atlantic County's environmental health concerns are concentrated in the protection of groundwater. Since almost all potable water used in Atlantic County ultimately comes from wells, not surface water or reservoirs, the ground water protection activities of the Division of Public Health are beneficial to all Atlantic County residents, not just well owners.

In addition, the environmental health of the County's beaches, coastal and inland wetlands needs to be maintained through education, surveying and enforcement. This is important not only from an environmental health perspective but also from a commercial and tourism vantage. It is therefore essential that funding sources be continued at optimum levels.

Environmental health issues to be addressed in 2012 are highlighted within each strategic goal category along with a plan to deal with the various challenges. Efforts in 2012 will be concentrated in the following: Meet or exceeding CEHA grant outputs, increase enforcement actions in core activities (water, air, solid waste), continued implementation of the private well testing law which will include testing for the radium parameter and performing testing on rental properties, and coordinating efforts with the County Office of Emergency Management in responding to manmade and natural disasters including hazardous material incident response.

Atlantic City Health Department (ACHD) is a CEHA subcontractor and performs various environmental inspections and investigations within the boundaries of Atlantic City. A separate Environmental Assessment and Improvement Plan is submitted to NJDEP by the ACDH.

## **Strategic Environmental Goals**

### **Goal: Clean Air**

**The air throughout the Atlantic County will be healthful to breathe, and air pollutants will not damage our forests, land and water bodies.**

#### **Indicators:**

- In 2011, 20 air pollution complaint investigations were conducted. In 2010, 13 air pollution complaint investigations were conducted.
- There are approximately 400 minor & "B" source equipment currently permitted by the NJDEP. This includes dry cleaners, boilers, emergency generators and auto body shops.
- NJDEP has air-monitoring sites in Atlantic City and Galloway Township (Brigantine Wildlife Refuge). The nearest carbon monoxide monitoring site is at Ancora State Hospital in Camden County.
- **Ozone:** In 2009 there was 1 day that exceeded the 8-hour standard (.075 ppm) and 0 days that exceeded the 1-hour average health standard (.12 ppm) for ground-level ozone (Galloway).
- **Particulates:** Course particulate concentrations of PM10 were below the daily (150 ug/m<sup>3</sup>) and annual (50 ug/m<sup>3</sup>) standard in 2009 (Atlantic City). Fine particulate concentrations of PM2.5 were also below the daily (35 ug/m<sup>3</sup>) and annual (15 ug/m<sup>3</sup>) standard in 2009 (Atlantic City).
- **Carbon Monoxide:** There were 0 days in 2009 of carbon monoxide exceedences (Ancora Hospital monitoring station).

**Key Issues:**

Atlantic County is most concerned about two pollutants, ozone and fine particulate matter. Exposure to ozone can cause coughing, chest pain and throat irritation in healthy individuals and can trigger asthmatic reactions in sensitive individuals. Fine particulate pollution above current standards also causes increased asthma attacks and is linked to premature deaths of susceptible individuals.

There continues to be a concern among many Atlantic County residents' regarding the quality of indoor air. The Division continues to receive increasing numbers of complaints / inquiries regarding indoor air quality within homes, schools, office buildings, and municipal buildings. Poor indoor air quality has been attributed to a number of sources including the failure to maintain a HVAC system, water leaks that result in mold and mildew buildup, the off gassing of building materials and furnishings, the use of consumer and commercial products, and activities occurring within the building such as cooking, cleaning and smoking.

**Activities:**

- Investigate all air pollution complaints received from citizens and NJDEP. These investigations include, but are not limited to, open burning, odors, particulates, permits and certificates. Update NJDEP referred complaint status in NJEMS as necessary.
- Educate and offer technical assistance when requested, in regards to improving indoor air quality within schools and public buildings. Refer employees to PEOSH as necessary.
- Educate and make referrals as needed to individuals in private residences that have concerns regarding their indoor air quality. Send residents information on IAQ testing and remediation firms.
- Maintain the inventory of delegated minor and other delegated source facilities.
- Enforce the State Air Pollution Control Code as required by the NJDEP. Notify the NJDEP Regional Field Office of all pending enforcement actions, including conferences. Enforcement actions will be in accordance with DEP's grace period policy.
- Compile and maintain files and records to support NJDEP and County enforcement actions.
- NJDEP will be notified five days prior to the convening of a settlement offer or taking court action. In addition, follow up reports on the out come of all settlement offers and court action will be forwarded to DEP.
- Information such as the document "What You Can Do" which describes steps that individuals can take to improve air quality will be distributed at public gathering as such as fairs, festivals etc.
- During an investigation of an indoor air quality complaint at a school, the school's administration will be encouraged to adopt the "IAQ Tools for Schools" guide if they have not already done so.
- Information regarding PEOSH consultative services will be distributed to administrators as needed.

**Resources:**

- Staff trained in odor enforcement and investigation of air pollution complaints.
- Lists from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services of private contractors that perform indoor air quality evaluations and mold remediation will be made available to the general public as needed.
- Equipment utilized during outdoor and indoor air quality evaluation will be maintained and calibrated in accordance with manufacturers recommendations.

**Needs:** A refresher-training program on Subchapter 5 is needed for existing employees. Seasoned air inspector retired in December of 2011. New employee in program will need additional training.

**Goal: Clean and Plentiful Water**

**Every person in Atlantic County will have safe drinking water either through a public water system or private wells. Atlantic County's rivers, lakes and coastal waters will be fishable, swimmable and support healthy ecosystems. Surface and ground water will be clean sources of water. Adequate quantities of surface and ground water will be available for all uses.**

**Indicators:**

## Safe Drinking Water:

- Both the ACUA and private laboratories test over five hundred private wells each year.
- In the year 2011 there were approximately 220 Public Non-Community water systems operating in Atlantic County. Approximately 80% are Transient Non-community systems.
- There was 1 complaint received in 2011 involving potable water. In 2010, there were 11 complaints that involved potable water.
- In 2010 the Division tested 276 residential potable wells for coliform bacteria after Countywide flooding in March. The Division also tested 41 wells after Hurricane Irene in 2011.

## Surface Water:

- In 2011, the Division collected 405 ocean and bay recreational bathing water samples that were tested for enterococcus. We also collected 144 lake recreational bathing water samples that were tested for fecal coliform.
- In 2010 and 2011 there were no recreational ocean bathing sites closed due to elevated bacteria levels. In 2011 there were 5 lake beach closings due to high bacteria counts after rain events.
- The Division participated in the ambient sampling program with DEP. Surface water samples were collected at six different locations on five different days. Results at this time have not been received from DEP.

- There were 8 surface water complaints received in 2011. All were investigated and resolved.

## **Key Issues**

Since the Private Well Testing Act provision to test Radium went into effect in September 2003 in Atlantic County, there have been over 250 private wells that tested over state limits for radium in the County. The number of wells contaminated with chemicals such as mercury, volatile organics, and nitrate is also always increasing. This has created a need for numerous community notifications as to the presence of these contaminants especially in Buena Vista, Galloway and Mullica Townships, and the Town of Hammonton. The Division has responded by notifying residents in affected areas by mail. These notices explain the type and nature of the contaminants found in their area and direct people to private labs for radium testing. They may test for other contaminants through the Division or through a private lab.

The Division is also using the information to advise municipalities to install public water lines where available. When an area has a significant number of confirmed cases of volatile organics and/or mercury, DEP assists in performing more comprehensive surveys of well water quality. The NJDEP can then authorize monies to be allocated for installation of public water lines.

Every newly discovered contaminated well generates dozens of calls to and from the affected homeowners, homebuyers, realtors, lawyers, municipal officials and concerned neighbors. With each new case, we experience a surge in requests for water testing. Each test requires a review of the lab analyses, and the data must be electronically entered. A written report is prepared for the homeowner. Frequently, residents require technical consultation regarding risk, treatment systems and State Spill Fund application assistance.

Contaminated well water triggers many activities such as: groundwater investigations, informing and working with DEP and issuing public health advisories.

The resources that need to be appropriated toward the PWTA continue to climb. Especially with the addition of radium testing and the requirements for rental properties it is possible that *resources will need to be shifted from other CEHA programs and directed towards the continued implementation of the PWTA.* .

Most of the miles of coastline in Atlantic County are used for recreational bathing. Starting in May and ending in September, the Division in partnership with Atlantic City Health Department tests the coastal waters weekly to assess conditions for bathers. Results are reported to DEP immediately upon receipt, which is in electronic format in accordance with an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency. Municipal public bathing lakes are also tested.

The Division, when appropriate, will assist the Atlantic County Department of Planning in the implementation of the watershed management plan for the Great Egg Harbor River. The Division will help identify key issues and problems specific to their watershed management area. The significant causes of water quality problems, including point sources of pollution, will be evaluated and the opportunities for improvement identified.

**Activities:**

- Continue to implement the Private Well Testing Act. Investigate all wells with exceedences that have a public health impact. Send notices to surrounding homeowners in areas where contamination is found.
- Conduct routine compliance inspections and sanitary surveys on non-transient and transient non-community public water supplies.
- Investigate all water pollution complaints from citizens and the DEP. These investigations will include, but are not limited to, potable water contamination, un-permitted discharges to surface water, improperly constructed wells and septic system malfunctions.
- Provide follow-up to MCL violations by taking whatever measures needed to be protective of Public Health. Verify public notification.
- Require proper sealing of abandoned wells in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:9-9.
- Collect water samples as needed for analysis in accordance with the current version of the NJDEP Field Sampling Procedures.
- Perform the recreational beach monitoring and pollution source investigations in support of the Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program and perform the related activities required by Chapter 9 of the State Sanitary Code. Continue the partnership with USEPA (region 2) and NJDEP in the sharing of coastal recreational bathing data.
- Compile from all municipalities within the County the list of recreational bathing areas in lakes and creeks, the bacteria data collected as per Chapter 9 of the State Sanitary Code, and the number of beach closings required due to water quality impairments. Forward to NJDEP within the time specified.
- Initiate enforcement proceedings in a court of competent jurisdiction against violators as required by the NJDEP. Submit all reports documenting violations to NJDEP as required. Notify NJDEP regional field office of all pending enforcement actions. NJDEP shall be notified five days prior to convening a settlement conference or taking court action. Reports on the outcome of a settlement conference or court action will be forwarded to NJDEP.
- Continue to conduct preoccupancy and midseason migrant farm sampling (currently without CEHA funding). Report violations to the Department of labor, notify farm owners, and post signs when necessary.

**Resources:**

- Contract with the Atlantic County Utility Authority for water lab services (see attachment I)
- Staff trained in the collection of potable and surface water samples, in the investigation of potable water and surface water complaints, and the inspection of non-community water supplies
- Geographic Information System (see attachment II)

**Needs:** Continuing education & training for staff.

## **Goal: Safe and Healthy Communities**

**Every Atlantic County community will be free from unacceptable human health and ecological risks due to direct exposure from hazardous substances and other potentially harmful agents. Natural resources will be managed to protect the public from floods, fires and storms.**

### **Indicators:**

#### **Contaminated sites:**

**Superfund Sites** – There are currently 9 sites in Atlantic County on the National Priorities List (As of 6/1/12). There are also 2 sites in the USEPA RCRA Corrective Action Program. Facility files are maintained and updated.

**Known Contaminated Sites** – As of 4/12/12, the NJDEP Known Contaminated Site List (KCSL) contained 510 sites with confirmed contamination in Atlantic County. There were also 40 pending sites with contamination. The NJDEP website also lists 2,213 closed Atlantic County cases on the KCSL. The majority of these sites are underground storage tank cases. Facility files are maintained and updated. Majority of these sites are mapped using in house Arc Info GIS database. Information is used to inform public where sites are located when requests are submitted, particularly during real estate transactions.

**New Contaminated Sites** – Sites are reported to NJDEP hotline and are investigated by the Division of Public Health. Information is sent to appropriate NJDEP case manager. Property owners are encouraged to enter NJDEP Voluntary Cleanup Program or Licensed Site Remediation Professional program.

**Hazardous Materials Incidents** – In 2011, the Division of Public Health responded to 122 hazardous material incidents/complaints. The majority of incidents dealt with the release of petroleum products from transportation accidents and fixed facility discharges. In addition, the Division has developed protocols with the County Office of Emergency Management involving responding to hazardous material incidents. Changes or amendments to the protocol document will be made as needed. There were also 91 reports of discharges from underground storage tanks in 2011 and 108 reports in 2010.

**Solid Waste Facilities:** Both the NJDEP and the Division of Public Health conduct Inspections. The Division of Public Health had performed 43 facility inspections in 2011.

**Landfills:** One (1) operating landfill.

**Transfer Stations:** One (1) public and one (1) private.

**Recycling Facilities (Class B):** 10 Total - Five (5) are open to the public, five (5) private.

**Recycling Facilities (Class A):** One (1) public facility.

**Compost Facilities:** There are six (6) compost facilities, five of which are exempt from full permitting (4 municipal, 1 private).

**Convenience Centers:** There are eight (8) municipal convenience centers.

**Rail Facility:** One (1) private rail facility in Pleasantville (currently inactive awaiting permit).

**Solid Waste Complaints:** There were 45 complaints investigated in 2011. There were 42 complaints investigated in 2010. These complaints dealt primarily with illegal dumping, improper storage and illegal transportation of solid waste.

**Hauler Interviews:** There were 46 self-generator transporter interviews conducted in 2011.

**Truck Checks:** There were 56 truck checks conducted in 2011.

**Container Inspections:** There were 491 solid waste container checks conducted in 2011.

## **Key Issues**

Hazardous materials and solid waste management present unique public health and environmental health challenges. Response to hazardous materials incidents reduces the potential for public exposure to chemicals. In addition, a timely response can reduce or eliminate contaminating soil, groundwater and surface water in Atlantic County.

The Atlantic County Office of Emergency Preparedness is the lead County agency for hazardous materials response. The ACOEP also coordinates the response of the Atlantic County Regional Hazardous Materials Team. The Division of Public Health is a support agency identified in the Hazardous Materials Annex of the County Emergency Operations Plan and is a part of the County Regional HazMat Team. We are a technical resource to local police and fire departments who normally first respond to a hazardous materials incident. Hazard assessments, air monitoring, decontamination, hazard control and cleanup oversight are a few of the functions provided to local responders. Communication and coordination with NJDEP Bureau of Emergency Response is also a critical mission.

Events which occurred after the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center tragedy challenged every sector of the emergency response community. Response to incidents involving suspect biological materials required timely coordination between local and County law enforcement along with County Emergency Management. Communication and coordination with State agencies was challenging. Emergency response plans for Weapons of Mass Destruction need to be reviewed and updated as necessary. Coordination and lines of communication with hospitals and other agencies that may deal with a WMD event need to be strengthened. Issues such as mass decontamination resources need to be addressed. The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Task Force advises on issues dealing with WMD response and other public health emergencies both natural and manmade.

Natural disasters such as hurricanes and floods can present numerous hazardous materials problems. After a storm in August of 1997, methane from an unknown source entered the basements of a number of residences. Contents of fuel oil tanks can escape after flooding. Unsecured containers of hazardous materials can also be dislodged and cause serious danger to the public.

Staffing, after hour response time, training and funding continue to be challenges faced in all aspects of emergency response. Weapons of mass destruction, which includes chemical, biological and radiological hazards, will require a tremendous amount of training, funding and coordination with local, state and federal agencies.

Public education on chemical hazards and locations of contaminated sites is an ongoing task. Chemical hazard information is disseminated at local community events that include promoting household hazardous waste collection days sponsored by the Atlantic County Utilities Authority. Past incidents involving chemical reactions in solid waste collection vehicles remind us about the dangers of hazardous materials routinely discarded by homeowners.

Atlantic County has many undeveloped and protected environmentally sensitive areas. The public, using dirt roads, can access many of these areas. Unfortunately individuals have targeted some of these areas for illegal dumping of solid waste and in some cases hazardous materials. High tipping fees at solid waste facilities in addition to lack of convenient access have contributed to the problem. Enforcement at the local level is limited to a handful of towns leaving the Division of Public Health as the lead agency to investigate these incidents.



In 2007, the Atlantic County Department of Regional Planning hired a consultant to prepare an updated County Solid Waste Management Plan. A draft of the new plan was submitted to NJDEP for preliminary comments in 2008. In 2009, Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted updated plan. Plan has been submitted to NJDEP. Implementation of many aspects of the current County Solid Waste Management plan, including recycling, is delegated to the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA). The ACUA operates a landfill, transfer station, recycling center and compost facility. They provide curbside collection of recyclables for residents in addition to collecting recyclables from certain businesses. In addition, some municipalities provide solid waste and recyclable material collection either through municipal public works or by using a private contractor. All municipalities have identified recycling coordinators and have local ordinances that provide a mechanism for recycling enforcement. Atlantic County and many municipalities use Clean Community grant money for roadside litter removal. Materials such as tires and asbestos still present challenges.

Illegally disposed or stockpiled tires pose fire hazards and mosquito breeding habitat. In 2001, Atlantic County was awarded \$130,337.75 as part of the Scrap Tire Management Fund administered by the NJDEP. A tire amnesty program for residents collected 50.9 tons of tires. Municipalities and the Atlantic County Mosquito Control Unit removed 75.56 tons of tires from the environment as part of the spending plan. In early 2002, a contractor removed 727 tons of tires abandoned at a site in Mullica Township. A portion of the grant was also used to produce an educational video on West Nile Virus. Additional funds were applied for in 2002. Atlantic County was awarded \$250,000 to complete the cleanup of the Perona abandoned tire site in Mullica Township. In 2003 the cleanup was completed. The State Tire Management and Cleanup Fund was established in 2004. Counties and municipalities can apply for funding to cleanup abandoned tire piles. In 2005, Mullica Township received a grant for \$300,000 to start the cleanup of the last major tire pile in Atlantic County. Unfortunately, money from the Scrap Tire Management Fund was not made available to municipalities in 2006 or 2007. In 2007 Atlantic County recovered \$217,500 stemming from the Perona Site cleanup and subsequent litigation. NJDEP approved Atlantic County's request to use this money to continue the removal of tires from the former Joseph Perona site in Mullica Township. In 2008, Atlantic County applied for additional funds from the NJDEP to complete the Joseph Perona property tire cleanup project. In 2009, Atlantic County was awarded \$50,000 through the CEHA grant process for the former Joseph Perona property tire cleanup project. A contract with Mullica Township was executed to utilize these funds to finish the project. Mullica Township hired a contractor in 2010 that removed over 900 tons of tires at a cost of \$267,000.

Regulations regarding the proper removal, packaging, transportation and disposal of asbestos are confusing to the general public. Asbestos is at least partially regulated by two federal agencies, four state agencies and the local building inspector.

Consistency and timing of inspections at solid waste facilities remain an issue between the NJDEP and the Division of Public Health. Retirements of NJDEP inspectors and unfilled positions also are being felt at county level. Performing joint inspections with NJDEP should help. Guidance documents from NJDEP regarding handling of certain materials such as asphalt millings, street sweeping material and asbestos are useful but are not sent directly to the counties or other affected agencies in a timely manner. Regional Solid Waste Forums coordinated by the NJDEP are used to distribute timely information and discuss important enforcement issues that affect the counties. We find these meetings very useful and should be continued. Atlantic County continues to encourage the NJDEP to promulgate solid waste generator requirements through the Solid Waste Management Act, similar to those requirements found in the hazardous waste regulations. This would more clearly place responsibility and liability on the generator to follow current State and County solid waste planning directives and recommendations.

In 2010, the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders reinstated solid waste flow control in Atlantic County. All solid waste must now be delivered to the ACUA facility in Egg Harbor Township or transported to an out-of-state facility. An agreement was executed between the Atlantic County Division of Public Health (ACDPH) and the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) that designates enforcement authority to the ACUA pursuant to the County Environmental Health Act (CEHA). The ACUA will investigate and prosecute violations of the waste flow ordinance. All investigations will be reviewed by the ACDPH prior to being filed in Court. Copies of the agreement have been sent to NJDEP.

Atlantic County Health is still dealing with a former solid waste hauler who has abandoned up to 109 containers of waste on property in Egg Harbor Township. NJDEP revoked his transporters license in 2010. The case was filed in Atlantic County Superior Court. The length of time this case has taken to prosecute has taken a toll on staff and our legal team.

### **Activities:**

#### **Hazardous Materials**

- Respond to all hazardous material emergencies referred by NJDEP to assess environmental threats and advise Bureau of Emergency Response accordingly. Assist in emergency response actions, if applicable, in accordance with the approved CEHA work program and the County Hazardous Materials Annex. Make recommendations to and coordinate these response actions with appropriate federal, State and local agencies. Submit reports to NJDEP for all incidents responded to, documenting the type of incident, the remedial action taken and whether or not a violation occurred. In the event of a violation, submit reports documenting the violation(s) to NJDEP for enforcement actions, as required by the NJDEP.
- Investigate all hazardous materials complaints received from citizens and NJDEP as required by NJDEP. These investigations include potential and known discharges of hazardous materials to the environment. Refer cases requiring remedial action to NJDEP. Submit violations of the Spill Act and RCRA to NJDEP for enforcement actions.
- Maintain a core of trained and equipped personnel that are capable of responding to hazardous materials incidents. Coordinate activities with NJDEP, County Office of Emergency Preparedness, local fire departments, and local HazMat units (Atlantic City Fire Department and New Jersey ANG 177<sup>th</sup> FW) as appropriate. See Atlantic County's Emergency Operations Plan - Emergency Support Function 10 - Hazardous Materials.
- Maintain an adequate supply of HazMat disposable equipment, such as pads, sweeps, etc. and equipment such as radios, air monitoring devices, etc.
- Ensure that personnel assigned to HazMat incidents are properly trained and participating in a medical surveillance program.
- Compile and maintain files and records to support NJDEP enforcement actions.
- Maintain GIS coverage for contaminated sites.

## **Solid Waste**

- Monitor transporters hauling solid waste to ensure compliance with NJDEP regulations and the County's Solid Waste Management Plan. Work with the ACUA to monitor and enforce waste flow control.
- Investigate all solid waste complaints received from citizens and NJDEP, such as illegal dumping of solid waste materials, unregistered haulers and unpermitted facilities. Respond back to NJDEP within ten (10) days of receipt with the initial or final outcome of complaint as the case may warrant.
- Continue to update the list of all known convenience centers, farmland mulch sites and Class A recycling centers and provide this list to NJDEP, OLEM by end of the calendar year.
- Conduct inspections as needed to ensure contaminated soil is handled as per NJDEP guidelines.
- Conduct interviews of solid waste transporters to verify exempt status. Currently 25-50 interviews are conducted each year.
- Conduct routine monitoring inspections of delegated solid waste facilities, including operating landfills, transfer stations and recycling facilities.
- Enforce the Solid Waste Management Act as required by NJDEP, initiate enforcement proceedings in a court of competent jurisdiction against violators as appropriate. NJDEP shall be notified five (5) days prior to the convening of all settlement conferences and / or court actions. The notification shall include the proposed settlement amount or the penalty amount to be sought in the court action. In addition, follow-up reports on the outcome of all settlement conferences and court actions, including the penalty assessment and compliance plan (if applicable), shall be forwarded to NJDEP's Solid Waste Compliance and Enforcement Program.
- In a format approved by NJDEP, provide a monthly report to NJDEP Solid Waste Compliance and Enforcement indicating NOV's issued, name of violator, location of violation, nature of violation (citation), and penalty assessed (via e-mail or hard copy).
- Compile and maintain files and records to support NJDEP and County enforcement actions.

## **Resources**

- Staff trained to respond to hazardous materials incidents
- Hazmat response vehicles assigned to designated personnel with cell phone and radios.
- Personal protective equipment assigned to response personnel. Self-contained breathing apparatus, air purifying respirators, chemical suits, gloves, boots, hardhats, etc.
- Air monitoring equipment. Foxboro TVA 1000 (organics), MultiRae Plus Multi Gas Monitor PGM-50 (four gas plus PID), MiniRae PID, Dräger CMS System with various chemical chips, Dräger Detector Tubes, TSI Q-Trak 8551 (CO & CO2).
- Disposable oil absorbent booms and pads, plastic sheeting.
- Hand tools – augers, shovel, wrenches, etc.
- Sampling equipment and containers.
- Laptop computer with portable printer.
- Geographic Information System (see attachment II).
- Reference chemical books and access to Internet.

## **Needs**

- Annual training in HazMat and WMD. Physicals (Medical Surveillance Program) and respirator fit testing.
- Perform joint inspections with NJDEP at solid waste facilities.
- Air monitoring equipment maintenance and calibration.
- Staff training for GIS and other related computer programs.
- Funding towards personnel in hazardous materials incidence response.

## **Noise:**

- Respond to all noise complaints received from citizens and NJDEP, and investigate all complaints that are under the jurisdiction of the State Noise Code.
- Compile and maintain files and records to support NJDEP and the Division's enforcement actions

- Maintain certification of at least one individual on staff in the performance of noise control investigations.
- Initial enforcement proceedings in a court of competent jurisdiction against violators as required by the State Noise Code.

**Noise Complaints** – The Division received 7 noise complaints from in 2011 and two (2) complaints were received in 2010.

**Resources:**

**Personnel:** Two staff members currently certified to take noise readings.

**Noise Equipment:**

- Quest SoundPro SE-2 SLM S/N: BAF030004
- Quest QC-10 Calibrator S/N: QIF060165
- Kestrel 2000 Wind Meter with temperatures

**Needs**

- Refresher training as required.

**Goal: Open and Effective Government**

**Atlantic County will fulfill its vision and mission and achieve its goals through the involvement of citizens and stakeholders as critical partners and through a commitment to quality principles and methods as a means to continuous improvement of its operations.**

**Indicators:**

During the year, various meetings / discussions are held within various municipalities to discuss issues with residents and / or town officials on subject matter that consisted of the following: private well water contamination, solid waste facility issues, West Nile Virus, noise regulations, surface water standards and bioterrorism.

News releases are issued when requested and /or when necessary to keep the public informed. If the environmental health issues impacts on a certain area of the county, those municipal officials are kept informed on a continuous basis. Their questions and input is also encouraged, as they are in the best position to explain what the concerns of community will likely be.

The Atlantic County web page is updated to describe environmental health services provided by the Division.

A radio show specific to public health that debuted in 2000 continues to be aired. The half hour show has highlighted environmental health issues such as solid and hazardous waste, well water testing, The Private

Well Testing Act, the Cooperative Coastal Monitoring program, West Nile virus, and issues related to bioterrorism. Listeners were encouraged to call the Division or visit the Web page.

Every month, municipal clerks receive a print out of complaint investigations conducted within their town that month. The status of each complaint and an updated status of all other complaint investigations performed from the beginning of the year are also contained within the report.

In the year 2011, the Division received 136 record requests. Record requests were received from attorneys, citizens and from other government entities (municipalities, Green Acres, etc.) Many individuals reviewed files at the Division of Public Health. The Division became familiar with and complies with the Open Public Records Act.

Key environmental health staff represents the Division on the Atlantic County Park and Environment Advisory Board, Emergency Management Advisory Board and the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Task Force. The task forces and boards are made up of citizens, municipal, county, and state officials in addition to representatives from various organizations. Environmental health issues of concern are discussed at the meetings. In addition, the Division is represented at the municipal emergency management meetings held regularly at the County Office of Emergency Preparedness.

### **Key Issues:**

The September 11 tragedy and subsequent bioterrorism threats highlighted more than ever how important it is for the County to communicate with local municipalities. Information such as public health alerts and advisories are distributed to local officials when necessary. Distribution of timely public information is also critical. Press releases are sent to municipalities as soon as possible. As an example, municipalities are notified in advance when mosquito spraying is scheduled. Many local officials actually placed this information on their local cable channel. The spraying schedule can also be found on the County's web site and a West Nile Virus hotline was activated in 2002 providing information on the virus and any mosquito spraying that would be taking place. During the year 2004, the County continued to expand and improve its communication in this area. Timely press releases through the County Public Information Office also assist us with providing information to the public. In 2010 and 2011, the County set up a website for the public to register property damage after storms. The site allowed us to collect names and addresses of affected property owners in a short period of time. Each homeowner was contacted by phone and offered various forms of assistance (ex. – well sampling, etc.)

Atlantic City Health Department is the Division's CEHA subcontractor that provides full environmental health services within the City. Given the City's tourist / casino industry, along with its sensitive coastal and back bay areas, the Atlantic City Health Department has submitted its own Environmental Health Assessment and Improvement Plan in regards to issues that are specific to the city.

During the summer months the County and the City partner closely to perform activities within the Cooperative Coastal Monitoring program. The City and County offer assistance to each other when necessary within this program and within all others upon request. The City and the County are each represented on the Public Health Emergency Task Force.

More communication between certain DEP program managers and the Division would be helpful.

**Activities:**

- The Public Health Emergency Task Force was formed to ensure that Atlantic County is properly prepared to handle a major public health emergency, both natural and man made, and that the local public health departments and health care community have the resources and knowledge necessary to quickly identify and coordinate an appropriate medical response to an infectious disease outbreak.
- Town meetings will be continued and encouraged. Municipal officials will be updated on environmental issues impacting their community as needed or upon their request.
- The Atlantic County web page is updated on an ongoing basis.
- Information and/or assistance will be provided on all record requests received.
- Hazmat staff will continue to train with the County Regional Team.
- Atlantic City will submit an Environmental Health Assessment and Improvement plan.
- Municipal clerks will receive monthly reports on investigations.
- There will be environmental health representation on advisory boards and at municipal emergency meetings.
- Timely communication with the news media will continue.

**Resources:**

Environmental Health Staff  
Records room and copy machine

**Needs:** See Attachment II Geographic Information Systems

**References:**

- DEP Strategic Plan
- National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS)
- DEP's Water Quality Monitoring Networks Report
- Atlantic County CEHA Work plan
- Atlantic County Master Plan
- Atlantic County Water Quality Management Plan
- Atlantic County Solid Waste Management Plan - 2009
- Healthy People 2010: Environmental Health
- The document "Meeting Atlantic County Needs" Format prepared by the NJ Center for Environmental Indicators

- 1998 Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking Findings (EMPACT)
- Findings and Recommendations for the Remediation of Historic Pesticide Contamination
- Comprehensive Service Plan Environmental Impact Statement for the Great Egg Harbor National, Scenic and Recreational River
- Atlantic County 2005 Report on the Environment
- Atlantic County Community Health Needs Assessment “Partnership for a Healthy Community”
- Atlantic County Community Health Profile
- Atlantic County Human Services Advisory “Prioritization of Unmet Service Needs: Environmental Health”
- NJDEP July 1, 2011 Known Contaminated Site List