

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

2010 PRIORITIES

The DEP will focus on two key sets of priorities over the next four years. They include both “Program” Priorities and “Transformation” Priorities.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION’S PROGRAM PRIORITIES

While reform and efficiency are needed across all agency operations, the Department’s focus will be framed around very clear and specific program priorities. They include:

- Ensure the successful implementation of the Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) Program and site remediation reforms. This is critical to cleaning-up the 20,000 contaminated sites in the State
- Establish the Site Remediation Licensing Board.
- Evaluate stream designations, including C1 criteria, to protect New Jersey's most important waters.
- Determine the best approach for the long-term restoration of Barnegat Bay.
- Determine a solution to address the cooling systems at Oyster Creek nuclear plant.
- Protect the ocean from other off shore drilling and LNG, and increase and improve ocean water testing.
- Optimize stewardship of the Atlantic Ocean, its beaches and tributaries. Maximize shore protection and public access to the most reasonable extent while minimizing impacts to the resources the ocean provides.
- Develop a sensible Public Access rule incorporating concerns for safety, security, economic vitality and recreational opportunity.
- Identify sustainable funding for operation and maintenance of parks and wildlife management areas.
- Manage natural resources in a comprehensive manner that looks at the overall viability and enhancement of species and habitat.
- Consolidate ecological restoration programs into one office and establish a new strategy for restoring, enhancing and mitigating damages to ecosystems.
- Aggressively address air pollution generated in other parts of the nation that impact New Jersey’s air quality.

- Determine the best approach and implement a program to accelerate the retrofit of diesel engines across the state.
- Build green energy, especially by accelerating the expansion of wind and solar energy through appropriately streamlined regulation and establishment of meaningful incentives. Begin to investigate new electric vehicles and the infrastructure to make that technology workable.
- Oppose Delaware River dredging. There are too many open issues that have not been addressed including insufficient testing, CDFs solely in New Jersey, and no real air mitigation.
- Utilize the Science Advisory Board to promote sound decision making. Establish a Science Plan for the DEP.
- Establish a new Alternative Dispute Resolution program.
- Work with the Lieutenant Governor's Office, other state agencies, and stakeholders to ensure development of a State Plan that recognizes growth should occur in areas that yield economic growth opportunities which benefit the State as a whole, while ensuring that there is no net environmental loss of resources.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S TRANSFORMATION PRIORITIES

- Ensure the DEP manages through the use of metrics, makes informed, well-grounded decisions, and applies customer service principles.
- Develop baseline metrics and work plans based on our Transformation Plan with clear priorities, goals, time frames and metrics for measuring progress. Each Bureau, within each Division, within each Assistant Commissioner area will monitor progress on a quarterly basis and our Assistant Commissioners will prepare annual reports, available to the public, to summarize our efforts.
- Make policy decisions at the highest level and make certain decisions are passed on to all staff to ensure equal and uniform treatment of our customers across the board.
- Identify non-mission critical functions and redundant processes that the DEP can eliminate.
- Establish processes for the flow of information to improve communications efforts with the Department's internal as well as external constituencies, to ensure that staff, stakeholders and the general public are accurately informed about our decisions and activities.
- Expand and improve the Office of Permit Coordination to ensure well-coordinated reviews of complex projects between DEP program areas, as well as provide new assistance to smaller businesses.
- Immediately focus on operational and regulatory reforms in the Land Use permitting program, including the expanded use of information technology, electronic submittals, general permits and permits-by-rule.
- Advance more meaningful pre-application meetings. Establish a process to help regulated entities avoid expending funds for projects or portions of projects with limited probability of success, identify and minimize environmental impacts early in the process. Streamline reviews for entities utilizing a pre-application process.
- Ensure consistency and predictability in all permitting and approval processes.
- Streamline permitting and approval processes that maximize the use of technology.
- Establish processes within each program to facilitate dialogue with applicants during the permit evaluation process.
- Make Environmental Justice a priority, recognizing the injustice that pollution imposes on overburdened communities.

- Structure processes and policies to help change the culture outside of the Department, to make regulated entities and their consultants more responsible for the quality of submittals.
- Develop a new opportunity model and plan for enhancing and sustaining parks and wildlife areas.
- Base enforcement priorities and actions on environmental risk. Establish a better connection between the enforcement and permitting programs.
- Work with the Governor's Office and the Privatization Task Force to evaluate how the agency can take advantage of outsourcing, contracting and privatization opportunities.
- Evaluate the usage of the landscape maps as they relate to regulatory programs.
- Establish a training program for all DEP managers and staff that will incorporate customer service, continuous process improvements and management skills.
- Address issues adversely impacting managers.