

2009

Salem County

Environmental Health Assessment

And

Improvement Plan

Prepared: October 2008

Community Background:

Salem County is a sparsely populated rural community comprised of 15 municipalities. Its 64,285 residents reside in a 346.95 square mile area giving it a population density of approximately 185 people per square mile.

Salem County's location is on New Jersey's main transportation corridor with major roads (New Jersey Turnpike, I-295, Rt. 55 and connection to I-95 via the Delaware Memorial Bridge) connecting Salem County with Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. Industry is primarily located on the Delaware River and in the Salem City area. A number of firms in chemicals, electronics and energy, including PSEG Nuclear Generating Station, make Salem County their home.

Salem County is also one of the leading agricultural counties in the state, with predominately rural towns in its eastern and central sections.

The Salem County Health Department (SCHD) is an established health department pursuant the authority of NJSA 26:3A2-1et seq. SCHD is the certified local health agency for the provision of environmental health services delegated by the County Environmental Health Act (CEHA) and the Environmental Health Standards of Administrative Procedure; NJAC 7:1H – 2.1 et seq.

Goals and Activities:

Salem County's Environmental Plan considers local environmental concerns within the context of the CEHA Grant and State approved work-plan. Salem County Health Department will operate pursuant the authority delegated to SCHD through the NJDEP and CEHA.

Goal: Clean Air

Activities: Inspect B source air permitted facilities to determine compliance with the State's air pollution control regulations. Focus on facilities with expired, or soon to expired permits, dry cleaners, schools, office buildings, apartment and government buildings and auto body shops.

Conduct inspections at potential facilities that may require air permits as needed.

Conduct follow-up inspections at facilities with violations to ensure compliance is achieved.

Conduct odor, idling and emission complaint investigations received from citizens and NJDEP. Implement actions to have the source of the complaints corrected.

Conduct an education and outreach program to fire, police and DPWs, concerning the NJDEP regulations for idling and boiler and generator permitting.

Deliverables: Respond to NJDEP referrals within 24 hours with notification of results to appropriate NJDEP regional office within 24 hours of the investigation.

Submit all compliance monitoring inspection reports to NJDEP's Minor Source Compliance Investigation Program within 45 days of completing the inspection.

Provide list of entities to which outreach will be offered to MSCI by March 31, 2009

Provide list of Air outreach programs conducted and list of attendees to MSCI by 12/31/09

Notify NJDEP of enforcement actions and forward all enforcement records according to NJDEP protocols.

Resources: SCHD has a full time Environmental Specialist. Fifty percent of her time is dedicated to the Air Compliance and Enforcement Program. 3 Inspectors have training in odor complaint investigations. A senior staff member trained and certified in the Air Program initiatives will act as a field supervisor to staff. No other local agencies perform this type of work and no inter-local service agreements for the air program are in place.

Vehicles are available to staff for travel to and from inspection sites. A computer with internet access is available for this program.

Goal: Clean and Plentiful Water

Local Environmental Issues:

The Health Department will continue to provide water quality educational information to residents and businesses as well as linking them to resources to assist them in maintaining regulatory compliance.

Salem County will monitor pre-season migrant farm labor camp water samples. Camps with water test results that do not pass Safe Drinking Water Standards will receive follow-up by this office and referral to NJ Department of Labor.

Salem County is continuing the inspection program of facilities with regulated Under Ground Storage Tanks (USTs). A co-operative agreement with NJDEP and Cumberland County allows environmental officials to monitor tanks for leak protection requirements

and leaking product that has the potential to contaminate drinking water. Violators will receive enforcement notices and penalty actions.

Safe Drinking
Water & Water
Pollution Control

Activities: Inspect non-transient PNC systems at least every two years and transient PNC systems at least every four years.

Continue to implement the NJDEP Zero Tolerance Policy for PNC systems found in violation. Review the NJDEP public water database (PWS), prior to inspections in order to determine if any PNC systems have failed to sample as required. Undertake enforcement action to return violators to compliance. Provide correct updated information on PNC system status to NJDEP

Conduct non-routine inspections at facilities to determine classification, activation or deactivation and to follow-up on primary contaminant MCL exceedances as reported.

Inspect SNCs as reported and follow zero tolerance for all violations found.

Provide Technical assistance to PNCs concerning State and Federal Safe Drinking Water regulations.

Investigate all citizen and NJDEP referral complaints concerning potable water contamination, surface and groundwater discharges, improper well construction and malfunctioning septic systems.

Follow NJDEP enforcement and notification guidelines.

Investigate all water pollution complaints received by citizens and the NJDEP. Implement actions to have the source of the complaints corrected.

Maintain files and notify NJDEP of all enforcement actions taken.

Assure that recreational beach monitoring is performed. Perform pollution source investigations.

Each season compile, from all municipalities within the county, the list of recreational bathing areas on lakes or streams, bacteriological sampling results, and the number of beach closings due to water quality impairments.

Inspect new physical cross connections

Collect water samples as needed

Deliverables: Submit all compliance monitoring inspection reports to NJDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water within 30 days of inspection.

At the end of the season, submit recreational beach water monitoring results electronically to the NJDEP.

Notify NJDEP of enforcement actions and forward all enforcement records according to NJDEP protocols including Notice of Violation/Offer of Settlement policies.

Resources: Two REHS are trained in facility inspections and zero tolerance policies. SCHD works closely with the local laboratories to receive up to date sampling results and assure timely sampling for registered facilities. Penalties are deposited into the SCHD EQEF.

A computer is provided for connection to the state Public Water Supply Database. A laptop is provided for the UST inspector. Vehicles are available for travel to and from inspection sites.

SCHD employs a full time REHS trained to perform sanitary surveys of beaches and act as the lead in water pollution complaints.

All SCHD inspection staff are available to respond to and investigate water pollution complaints. All inspectors have a computer with internet access and vehicles available to travel to investigation sites. A computer, with Microsoft Excel software and an internet connection is available for electronic submission of sample results.

UST Pilot
Project

Activities: Inspect active UST facilities, facilities with release reporting, facilities with approved closure plans and facilities with unregistered USTs that are in use.

At each UST inspection of a gas station, inspect the Stage I and Stage II vapor control equipment and permitting to assure compliance with the NJDEP Air Pollution Control regulations.

Maintain records of inspections, investigations, enforcement documents and correspondence and follow NJDEP enforcement policies.

Deliverables: Inspection results will be entered into NJEMS within 21 calendar days of the inspection.

NJDEP will be notified of all enforcement proceedings including NOVs, Settlement Conferences and Settlement Agreements in accordance with reporting policies

Inspection results will be sent to the facility within 30 days of inspection

Resources: SCHD has a certified UST inspector assigned 50% to the program

An inter-local service agreement covers the UST program to allow the designated Salem County Inspector to enforce the UST regulations in Salem County as well as Cumberland County.

An additional inspector in each County assists with field inspections in this program. These additional inspectors are trained in the Stage I and Stage II Air Pollution Control Regulations.

A Senior REHS trained in both of these programs is available for supervisory oversight.

Goal: Safe and Healthy Communities

Local Environmental Issues:

Salem County's location on a major transportation corridor creates an area which may be impacted by motor vehicle accidents requiring haz-mat response. SCHD currently has an agreement with Salem County Emergency Services Haz-Mat Team for emergency response.

The environmental response to terrorism threats is an ongoing concern. Environmental first responders are trained for response to an incident. SCHD will work with the Salem County Prosecutor's Office, local law enforcement, Salem County OEM, and through a mutual aide agreement, the Cumberland County OEM to coordinate systems and responses.

Through a partnership with the Salem County Improvement Authority, the SCHD is working to promote and enforce recycling in accordance with the County's Solid Waste

Management Plan. SCHD will be utilizing the DEP Solid Waste Grace Period Rules and the County Solid Waste Management Plan to enforce Solid Waste violations.

Salem County schools and children will benefit from SCHD participation in the School Chemical Management compliance assistance program. This program will help to promote safe chemical storage and handling in the schools. Schools will also benefit from SCHD participation in the School IPM Project. Proper integrated pest management cuts down on the amount of pesticides generally applied to the facilities and reduces possible exposures to these chemicals.

Citizens working in Salem County will benefit from SCHD participation in the Right to Know outreach and enforcement program. Inspectors will reach out to businesses that have not completed their surveys of hazardous chemicals used in the workplace. All workers have the right to know what chemicals they are working with. Businesses will be given a short grace period to complete the required reporting. Businesses who fail to comply with the survey reporting will be subject to further enforcement actions.

HazMat and CBRNE Emergency Response

Activities: Coordinate with County OEM and HazMat/CBRNE response to develop an integrated emergency response preparedness system throughout the County.

Assure response to all hazardous materials/CBRNE emergencies referred by NJDEP to assess environmental health threats.

Assist in emergency response actions when appropriate in accordance with the approved OEM plan.

Make recommendations to and coordinate response actions with appropriate federal, state and local agencies.

Assure that personnel assigned to respond to haz-mat incidents are properly trained and participating in a medical surveillance program.

Investigate hazardous materials complaints received from citizens and NJDEP. Follow the SOPs for LEC cases.

Refer cases requiring remedial action to NJDEP.

Deliverables: Work with Salem County Office of Emergency Management and prepare reports of all hazardous materials responses. Submit to NJDEP proof of meeting PEOSHA health and safety training requirements.

Communicate with the NJDEP duty officer within 15 minutes upon arrival on scene concerning the incident status.

HazMat teams will enter their inventory of resources into the RDDB and maintain this data to reflect all available resources. New equipments shall be entered into the RDDB within 60 days of receipt.

Submit reports to NJDEP of incidents responded to.

Resources: SCHD maintains a shared service agreement with SCES for hazardous materials/CBRNE response and investigation.

A full time inspector is assigned ten percent of his time to respond to and investigate LEC complaints.

An inter-local service contract is maintained between Cumberland and Salem Counties for the services of a Sr. REHS. This inspector is trained to the technician level and maintains response equipment received by the Health Department through the CEDAP grant. This inspector will act as a field supervisor for SCHD staff and also coordinate with SCOEM and SCES to assure consistency in plans.

A vehicle is supplied for response to incidents.

PID equipment will be on long term loan from the Department in order to complete UST inspections.

Solid Waste Program

Activities: Investigate exempt transporters and facilities to assure compliance with all solid waste laws.

Inspect farmland mulch sites, convenience centers, and BUDs

Perform transporter compliance monitoring, container inspections, recycling enforcement and investigate incident referrals from NJDEP

Investigate all solid waste complaints received from citizens.

Continue to monitor solid waste haulers to ensure compliance with the Solid Waste Management Act, and conduct interviews of transporters referred by NJDEP.

Conduct annual routine inspections at closed landfills, approved Class B recycling centers, Class C compost facilities, transfer stations, Class A recycling centers and operating landfills in accordance with NJDEP inspection frequencies

Conduct recycling inspections to assure compliance with the County Solid Waste Management Plan.

Enforce the Solid Waste Management Act and follow NJDEP SOPs for inspection and enforcement

Deliverables: Enforce the State Solid Waste Management Act and initiate enforcement proceedings pursuant to NJDEP guidelines. Notify NJDEP of these actions in accordance with the SOPs

Respond to NJDEP within 5 days of receipt of all NJDEP referrals

Compile and submit a list of all enforcement actions and penalties and provide to NJDEP monthly

Submit quarterly recycling inspections reports to NJDEP within 30 days of the end of the quarter.

Notify NJDEP of enforcement actions according to policy.

Resources: SCHD has a full time Environmental Specialist designated fifty percent of her time to the solid waste program. This investigator works closely with the Salem County Utilities Authority

SCHD has a part time Public Health Investigator designated 50% of his time to perform illegal dumping investigations

SCHD has entered into a shared service agreement for a Sr. REHS who will provide field staff supervision and assistance for all CEHA programs.

A vehicle is available for all field inspections.

Computers are available for all staff

Noise Control

Activities: Investigate noise complaints received from citizens and the NJDEP that are under the jurisdiction of the Noise Control Regulations, and if applicable, enforce those regulations to achieve compliance.

Deliverables: Maintain records of all complaint investigations.

Maintain current staff certifications for noise control programs.

Resources: SCHD employs a REHS who is certified in noise complaint investigation.

SCHD maintains a quest sound meter to be used for noise complaint investigations.

A vehicle is available for response to complaints.

School IPM Pesticide Program

Activities: Conduct school visits to determine compliance with NJDEP IPM rules

Upon request, provide school officials with “Model School IPM Plan for New Jersey Schools” and other related materials.

Issue a notice of violation to schools out of compliance

Deliverables: Within 30 days of completing school visit and checklist, mail reports to NJDEP Pesticide Control Program

Resources: SCHD employs an inspector trained in this program

A vehicle and computer are available for these inspections

School Chemical Management Compliance Assistance

Activities: Conduct 10 compliance assistance inspections at High Schools and Middle Schools with chemistry labs using the checklist developed by NJDEP

Link schools requiring assistance with disposal of chemicals with the appropriate Household Hazardous Waste Day when applicable. Refer schools to private Hazardous Waste Haulers when required.

Disposal of wastes will be tracked by the SCHD.

Provide follow-up inspections at schools to assure continued compliance once initial educational phase is completed.

Compile and maintain files and records.

Deliverables: A School Chemical Management Project Summary chart will be submitted by December 31, 2009.

Resources: SCHD will have an Environmental Specialist and a REHS perform these inspections.

SCHD and CCHD have entered into a shared service agreement for a shared Sr. REHS. He will provide field training and over-site for this activity.

Right to Know Program

Activities: Investigate employers identified by NJDEP as having not filed CRTK surveys for a specific reporting period.

Document all relevant facts of these investigations

Follow NJDEP policies and procedures for issuing NOVs, penalty assessments and settlements.

Forward all failed settlements and continued non-compliant facilities to NJDEP for follow-up.

Deliverables: On a quarterly basis provide OLEM CEHA Coordinator and DEP CRTK Coordinator reports of the number of investigations, a brief summary of results, and a brief summary of any enforcement actions taken.

Resources: SCHD has an employee trained in the RTK program

A vehicle and a computer are available for conducting these investigations