

JERSEY DOT'S

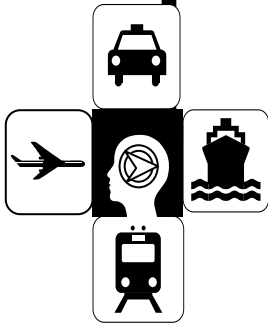
Tech Brief

"Turning Problems into Solutions"

CONTAMINANT ARRESTING SYSTEMS

FHWA/NJ-2002-003

JANUARY 2002



Need a solution?
Think Jersey DOT

Spills of hazardous materials on highways are quickly directed off the highway through the stormwater drainage system, usually directly into receiving waters. Such spills degrade the environment and can create dangerous situations.

According to US DOT figures the number of such spills has been on the increase for the last decade and shows no signs of abating. We wonder how these incidents might be prevented or mitigated.

A survey of the State's DOTs to gauge interest and activity on this problem was made. Only 7 of 50 States responded to two broadcasts of the survey indicating a low level of interest in this problem. No research into this subject was found.

Various ways of stopping liquid hazardous materials from reaching receiving waters are identified and imagined into the circumstances of an actual accident in New Jersey, involving 9000 gallons of gasoline, to gauge their possible effectiveness at stopping the spread of hazardous materials spilled on highways.

Some of the technologies identified would have only been minimally effective or ineffective in the situation examined, but might have been appropriate in other places or for other reasons. Other technologies might have averted the damage and problems resulting from the particular accident studied.

When lengths of highway with higher than average probability of experiencing a hazardous materials spill coincide with areas in which hazardous spills would be unacceptable measures to eliminate or decrease the impact of such a spill should be put into place before a spill takes place.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

NJDOT PROJECT MANAGER:

Tony Chmiel

NJIT PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

Allyn Luke

PHONE NO.

609-530-3711

PHONE NO:

973-596-2449