

2009

Cumberland County

Environmental Health Assessment

And

Improvement Plan

Prepared: October 2008

Cumberland County Health Department:

The Cumberland County Health Department (CCHD) is an established health department and also an established Board of Health pursuant the authority of NJSA 26:3A et seq. CCHD 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.

CCHD has entered into a certified inter-local service agreement with the City of Vineland for the provision of Hazardous Materials Emergency Response service throughout the County of Cumberland.

CCHD has entered into a certified subcontractor agreement with the Cumberland County Improvement Authority (CCIA) as a partner in the provisions of Solid Waste Enforcement throughout the County of Cumberland.

This plan incorporates the goals envisioned by CCHD and defines health concerns related to local environmental issues. CCHD outlines a plan to attain these goals and address environmental concerns.

Community Background:

Bordering the Delaware Bay in the southern extremity of New Jersey, Cumberland County is comprised of 501.7 square miles and has a population of 146,438 people. There are 14 municipalities, three of which are considered to be urban areas. The urban areas, Bridgeton, Millville and Vineland contain 72.3% of the county's population. The remaining areas of the County are rural. Fifteen percent of the County's area is considered wetlands and 37% falls under the provisions of the New Jersey Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA).

Industries in Cumberland County consist primarily of agriculture, aquaculture (oyster, crab), food processing, textiles and sand and gravel mining.

Goals and Activities:

Cumberland County's Environmental Assessment and Improvement Plan places local environmental concerns within the context of the program initiatives set forth by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Cumberland County Health Department will respond to these initiatives pursuant the authority delegated to CCHD through the NJDEP and CEHA.

Clean Air

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

Local Environmental Issues:

The idling of diesel motor vehicle engines is known to create fine particulate matter which contributes to asthma, allergies and other health issues. CCHD will be visiting schools and checking school busses for idling issues. CCHD will also host an outreach and education conference for police, fire, emergency workers and public works departments to educate them on New Jersey's motor vehicle idling rules and enforcement policies.

Air Pollution Control Program

Activities: Conduct inspections at dry cleaners and minor B source air permitted facilities, as assigned by NJDEP, to determine compliance with the State's air pollution control regulations.

Initiate Enforcement actions for violations as needed.

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

Investigate complaints from citizens and NJDEP concerning open burning, odors, particulate emissions, permits and certificates and vehicle idling.

Conduct and education and outreach program to police, fire and DPWs to educate them on the NJDEP regulations on idling, boilers and generators.

Follow NJDEP protocols for enforcement, notifications and penalty settlements

Maintain files and records of complaint investigations and facility inspections

Deliverables: Submit all compliance monitoring inspection reports to NJDEP's Minor Source Compliance Investigation Program within 45 days for reports with violations and within 60 days for other reports.

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

Resources: CCHD employs 1 full-time Environmental Health Specialist as the lead for this program and 7 inspectors trained in odor investigation.

A Sr. REHS is available for field inspection oversight and training in this program

Vehicles are available to staff for travel to and from inspection sites.

Computers with internet connections are available for all staff.

Clean and Plentiful Water

Cumberland County's rivers, lakes and coastal waters will be fishable, swimmable and support healthy ecosystems. Surface and groundwater will be clean sources of water. Every person will have safe drinking water. Adequate quantities of surface and ground water will be available for all uses.

Local Environmental Issues:

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, CCHD collects weekly surface water samples at 11 sites throughout the County. Seven of these sites are guarded recreational beaches. The remaining sites are used by the public for swimming or wading but are not sponsored beaches. During the 2008 season one of our lakes did not meet bacteriological standards for swimming for a couple weeks during the summer. This resulted in closing the lake to swimming. This program will be continued in 2009 throughout the recreational bathing season.

CCHD continues to receive complaints from residents and environmentalist concerning excessive algal growth in a previously pristine lake. Sheppard's Mill Pond is the site of one of Cumberland Counties Public Recreational Bathing Beaches. In 2008 algal growth was so bad that citizens would not swim in the lake. CCHD began an investigation of the conditions in late summer 2007. In 2008 CCHD worked with NJDEP, Soil Conservation and other interested agencies to expand data and information on surface water quality. While NJDEP is the lead agency for this type of issue, CCHD will continue to monitor this lake in 2009 and work with the multiple agencies that may be able to assist in determining that cause of the algal bloom as well as implementing some BMPs to help mitigate the problem.

CCHDs continued effort in implementing the Safe Drinking Water Program's Zero Tolerance Policy helps to assure that our citizens are drinking safe water from public non-community water systems. CCHD continues to work closely with NJDEP to respond to reports of MCL exceedances in a timely manner. CCHD is also working closely with the licensed operators to assure facility compliance.

Continuing our effort to evaluate possible areas of groundwater contamination, the CCHD anticipates ongoing participation in the Underground Storage Tank Program through a co-operative agreement with Salem County Health Department and NJDEP. Routine inspections of facilities with registered USTs will allow environmental officials to monitor tanks for leaking product that has the potential to contaminate drinking water. Enforcement actions will be issued against facilities with violations in accordance with NJDEP protocols.

Safe Drinking Water and Water Pollution Control Program

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 Water Watch to determine sampling compliance, prior to performing inspections.

Undertake enforcement action to return violators to compliance. Provide correct updated information on PNC system status to NJDEP

Conduct non-routine inspections of facilities to determine system classification, re-activation or deactivation.

Follow-up on all SNCs

Provide follow-up to PNCs that incur maximum contaminant level violations. Verify public notice and remedial actions to correct contamination.

Provide technical assistance to PNCs concerning state and federal SDW Act regulations

Investigate citizen and NJDEP complaints concerning potable water contamination, unpermitted discharges to ground or surface water, improperly constructed domestic wells, and septic system malfunctions. Implement actions to have the source of the complaints corrected

Identify abandoned wells and require proper sealing of them.

Inspect all new NJDEP registered physical cross connections.

Collect water samples as needed for investigative purposes.

Collect surface water samples at the NJDEP selected ambient surface water stations at a frequency of 5 samples over a 30-day period. Samples will be delivered to the DHSS courier for transport to DHSS lab.

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

Notify NJDPE of any bathing beach closings

Compile and maintain files to support inspections and enforcement actions

Follow NJDEP protocols for reporting and enforcement actions.

Deliverables: Submit all completed inspection reports to NJDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water within 30 days of the inspection

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

Report bathing beach sampling data to NJDEP by October 12, 2009.

Resources: Two staff members are trained in facility inspections and zero tolerance policies.

CCHD works closely with the local laboratories to receive up to date sampling results and assure timely sampling for registered facilities.

Collected penalties are deposited into the CCHD EQEF.

One staff member is trained in the sampling of designated sites

CCHD is a DHSS courier site.

2 CEHA staff inspectors and 2 REHSs cover the various municipalities in Cumberland County and respond to water pollution complaints when received.

Vehicles and computers are available for travel and data management.

CCHD employs a full time REHS trained to perform sanitary surveys of beaches. This inspector also conducts water monitoring and follow-up.

Regulated Underground Storage Tank Program

Activities: Maintain and interagency agreement with Salem County to perform the activities of this program in Cumberland County.

Investigate active and registered UST sites for compliance.

Investigate UST facilities with release reporting and investigation responsibilities

Investigate UST facilities for compliance with their approved closure plan

Investigate facilities with unregistered USTs that are in use and/or not properly closed

Inspect UST facilities with gas pumps for compliance with Stage I and II permits

Provide compliance assistance to owners and operators of USTs

Issue NOVs, implement delivery bans and cease use actions in accordance with NJDEP policy

Coordinate and negotiate settlements in consultation with NJDEP

Deliverables: Provided through Salem County

Resources: CCHD employs and Environmental Specialist trained in Stage I & II inspections who will accompany the Salem County UST inspector to assure safety and coordination for all Cumberland UST inspections.

All other equipment and staff resources are provide through Salem County.

Safe and Health Communities

Every Cumberland 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.

Local Environmental Issues:

The environmental response to terrorism threats and emergency incidents is an ongoing concern. A majority of these issues center around public health, but it is the environmental first responders that are on the front line. CCHD's subcontract with the City of Vineland allows for access to the Vineland Haz-Mat Team. CCHD works closely with Cumberland County Office of Emergency Management, haz-mat and local law enforcement to coordinate and effectively respond to hazardous materials calls. The environmental office has two staff members attending the County Bioterrorism Task Force Meetings and the County LEPC meetings. The Health Officer sits on the Homeland Security Task Force.

HazMat and CBRNE Emergency Response Program

- Activities: Coordinate with County OEM and local HazMat CBRNE response units to develop and maintain an integrated emergency preparedness system.
- Respond to all HazMat and CBRNE emergencies referred by NJDEP and local first responders to assess environmental health threats and advise responders accordingly.
- Make recommendations to and coordinate these responses with federal, State and local agencies.
- Refer all event which appear criminal in nature to the county prosecutor's office and/or municipal law enforcement officers.
- Notify 1-877-WARNDEP of any incidents which the county becomes aware of. Update the Southern Regional Office duty officer concerning the status of each incident within 15 minutes of arrival on scene.
- Assure that HazMat teams enter their resources into the RDDB within 60 days of receipt and maintain this data
- Assure a core of trained personnel and disposable equipment are maintained in accordance with the State Police Guidance Document.
- Ensure personnel assigned for response to HazMat incidents meet PEOSH requirements and are enrolled in a medical surveillance program where required.
- Compile and maintain records of incidents.
- Deliverables: Enter HazMat resources into RDDB within 60 days of receipt
- Provide records upon request to the State Audit Team
- Resources: CCHD maintains and interagency agreement with the City of Vineland for Hazardous Materials Emergency Response throughout the County.
- Vineland Fire Department HazMat/CBRNE team is available 24/7 for response to incidents.
- CCHD employs a Sr. REHS trained to the technician level and current with MSP, 8 inspectors trained to the first responder level, 3 of whom are 40 hour H&S certified and trained to ICS 300 level for assistance in public and environmental health decision making, and 2 staff member trained to the 400 level of ICS to assist in larger events

CCHD maintains a 24/7 on call system with a health inspector available through Cumberland County Emergency Management and Communications. On call personnel are equipped with a Nextel phone that is part of the NJDHSS LINKS Communication System.

CCHD has a vehicle equipped for first response

CCHD maintains a 4 gas meter and an Ahura First Defender chemical identification meter.

Site Remediation Program

Activities: Respond to and investigate NJDEP referrals and citizen complaints of low environmental concern cases

Follow NJDEP standard operating procedure for LECs

Issue notices to remediate site and refer cases to NJDEP that do not comply

Deliverables: Prepare reports of all complaints responded to and make available upon request

Resources: CCHD employs 8 staff members that are trained in first response three of whom

A vehicle is supplied for response to incidents.

Solid Waste Program

Activities: Investigate all solid waste complaints received from citizens and NJDEP.

Conduct routine compliance monitoring inspections of Class A, B, C & D recycling facilities, convenience centers and farmland mulch sites, closed landfills and operating landfills.

Monitor sites with Beneficial Use Determinations (BUDs) for compliance

Monitor solid waste haulers, containers, trucks and truck routes to ensure compliance with the Solid Waste Management Act and the County Solid Waste Management Plan.

Conduct interviews and investigations of exempt haulers

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

Provide reports to appropriate NJDEP solid waste program personell

Issue enforcement documents, including NOV's, Offers of Settlement, and court summonses, and notify NJDEP of enforcement proceedings in accordance with the NJDEP Standard Operating Procedures for the program.

Provide enforcement of the Solid Waste Utility Regulations in accordance with the pilot program activities, when complaints are received from citizens or referred from NJDEP.

Deliverables: Enforce the State Solid Waste Management Act and initiate enforcement proceedings pursuant to NJDEP guidelines.

Monthly, compile and submit a list of all enforcement actions to Mike Gage, NJDEP.

Within 5 days of receipt and response of NJDEP referred complaints, report back to Mike Greenwald, with results.

Quarterly, compile and submit a summary of all recycling inspections to Sondra Flite, NJDEP.

Maintain files and records of inspections and enforcement actions.

Resources: CCHD maintains a subcontractor agreement with the CCIA for solid waste enforcement. CCIA employs one person assigned to this program. CCHD employs one person assigned, full time, to perform joint inspections and monitor reports for compliance with NJDEP enforcement protocols.

A vehicle, surveillance and photography equipment is available for all field inspections.

Noise Control Program

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.

As requested by local officials and others provide guidance on noise regulations and noise prevention and abatement.

Deliverables: Maintain records of all complaint investigations.

Maintain current staff certifications for noise control programs.

Resources: CCHD employs 2 REHSs who are certified in noise complaint investigation. CCHD maintains a quest sound meter to be used for noise complaint investigations.

A vehicle is available for response to complaints.

Pesticide and School IPM Program

Activities: Inspect stores, restaurants, apartments, campgrounds, landscapers and golf courses to determine if the owner/operator or a licensed pesticide applicator has applied pesticides and is in compliance with applicable laws.

Inspect service vehicles, pesticide containers, storage areas, equipment, notification requirements, permits and application records to determine compliance.

Investigate the sale of illegal pesticides in retail stores and verify that all pesticides include EPA registration numbers and are not restricted use pesticides.

Conduct school visits to determine compliance with NJDEP IPM rules. Provide schools with "Model School IPM Plan for New Jersey Schools" and provide compliance assistance.

Respond to NJDEP and citizen complaints.

Follow NJDEP policies for enforcement, reporting and referrals.

Deliverables: Submit compliance monitoring reports to NJDEP within 60 days of completion

Notify NJDEP of all pending enforcement actions and settlements

Submit school IPM checklists to NJDEP within 30 days of school visit

Resources: CCHD employs a REHS trained in the Pesticide program

A vehicle and computer are available for use in this program

Community Right-To-Know Program

Activities: Perform CRTK investigations at facilities identified by NJDEP as having not filed a CRTK survey. Inspect for compliance with RTK Act.

Document all relevant facts.

Issue NOVs and Settlements in accordance with NJDEP policies for the program.

Notify NJDEP of all enforcement proceedings in accordance with policies and refer all non-compliant facilities to NJDEP for follow-up if a settlement can not be reached.

Deliverables: Quarterly, report to NJDEP and OLEM the number of investigations conducted, a brief summary of the investigation and a brief summary of any enforcement actions.

Resources: CCHD employs a REHS who is trained as the County RTK Coordinator.

A vehicle and computer are available for these inspections.

GIS

Activities: Develop GIS data relevant to CBRNE emergency preparedness purposes. Specifically, create a coverage showing all at risk population facilities with an associated dataset.

Assure that digital data and metadata are consistent with NJDEP guidance documents

A GIS representative will attend the County GIS users meetings.

Deliverables: Submit metadata to NJGIN and digital data to NJDEP-OLEM by December 31, 2009.

Resources: CCHD maintains a partnership with Cumberland County Planning Department. The Planning Department houses all GIS equipment used in the County. Arc-view and Arc-info software is used. The Planning Department employs a full time GIS administrator. A tremble GPS unit is available for point collection.

2009 Special Initiative

The Cumberland County Health Department is requesting additional funding for the 2009 Grant year. CCHD has always believed that education and outreach concerning NJDEP regulatory compliance should be done prior to issuing steep mandatory penalties that may adversely affect our small rural businesses. In past years CCHD has done compliance training classes to schools for radon and indoor air, integrated pest management and an overview of all CEHA inspection and enforcement programs. In 2008 we opened our CEHA compliance class up to municipal and county government as well as non-transient PWS systems. CCHD has also had an active education and outreach program for outdoor wood boilers. In 2009 we are planning on presenting an education and outreach training to police, fire and public works concerning the health effects of fine particulate matter caused from idling vehicles, as well as the rules and regulations governing the idling of vehicles.

As a special initiative project we would also like to hold a training class for facilities that have Air Program Permits. We will invite these facilities to small work group trainings and show them how to obtain on-line permits. Computers will be available for the attendees and they will receive group and individual assistance to set up their accounts and file for their permits on-line. We anticipate holding 3 – 4 of these trainings throughout the year. Facilities will be targeted for invitation based on when their current permits expire. We will partner with Salem County for this initiative allowing us to have 3 trained staff and an IT person available at the trainings.