



# **DEP Reminds Violators of Partnership with Criminal Justice**

For two decades, the Environmental Crimes Bureau (ECB) within the Department of Law and Public Safety's Division of Criminal Justice has investigated and prosecuted violations of the State's water pollution, air pollution, hazardous waste, solid waste and regulated medical waste laws. They also investigate and prosecute traditional crimes such as racketeering, thefts, frauds and official misconduct that have an impact on environmental regulatory programs. ECB staff members meet regularly with DEPs Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) staff and review enforcement actions, high priority cases and recurring environmental issues. In Fiscal Year 2006, the ECB completed over 60 criminal investigations, responded to 68 emergent pollution incidents throughout the State, and obtained 19 indictments and accusations against a total of 21 defendants. Successful ECB prosecutions secured \$1,254,361 in fines and restitution and 2½ years jail time.

The ECB also coordinates environmental criminal enforcement activities by the county prosecutors' offices with the DEP and the Marine Bureau of the State Police. The ECB also provides technical and legal assistance and training to those offices on a regular basis. During FY 2006, the ECB and DEP provided training on environmental crimes to all C&E inspectors. The ECB renders advice and assistance to numerous law enforcement agencies throughout the State and country, and continues to be in the forefront of the national enforcement effort.

The ECB also developed the Environmental Crimes Handbook - A Guide for Law Enforcement Personnel (July 2006) so law enforcement officers in New Jersey would have quick, ready access to the State's environmental criminal statutes and assist in their efforts to respond to potential environmental crimes within their jurisdiction.

The manual outlines the criminal provisions for:

- 1) Water Pollution
- 2) Hazardous Waste
- 3) Regulated Medical Waste
- 4) Solid Waste
- 5) Wetlands
- 6) Air Pollution
- 7) Public Safety

During Fiscal Year 2006, the ECB, working closely with the DEP and local officials, focused its efforts on identifying and prosecuting those who illegally dispose of hazardous or solid waste in vulnerable urban areas like Paterson, Newark, Jersey City and Camden. As part of the Urban Initiative, the ECB, with the DEP, conducted Statewide training of county and local

# COMPLIANCE ADVISORY

officials to assist them in responding to local dumping incidents. The ECB also focused on identifying and prosecution those who file false information with the DEP. Such fraudulent submissions jeopardize public health and the environment and undermine the integrity of DEP regulatory programs.

Through the ongoing partnership between DEP and ECB, inspectors, county and local officials, health officers and law enforcement personnel have all been trained in identifying environmental crimes. By doing so, it may not be a DEP inspector who catches you violating the law but the local police officer who is driving by on routing patrol.

## Who should I contact with questions?

Compliance and Enforcement	(609) 984-3285
Division of Criminal Justice, Environmental Crimes Bureau	(609) 984-4470

## Where can I get more information?

**The following web sites can be accessed for additional information regarding this advisory:**

Department of Law & Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice,  
Environmental Crimes Bureau <http://www.njdcj.org/ecb.htm>

Compliance and Enforcement <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/>

Download a copy of the 2006 Environmental Crimes Handbook at:  
<http://www.njdcj.org/ecb/ecb-handbook.htm>

**Visit the following Web site for general information:**

Contact NJDEP: <http://www.nj.gov/cgi-bin/dep/contactdep.pl>

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a department initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions related to compliance with this initiative, please contact the Enforcement number listed above.