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DO LOCAL COMMUNITIES HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE SITES ONCE THEY ARE PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION?

Yes. The local municipality is given a grant by the Commission to have a site suitability study conducted at the time that a site is proposed. When an applicant proposes a facility for that site, the municipality receives a grant from the company to conduct a review of the proposal. This review takes place during the licensing phase.

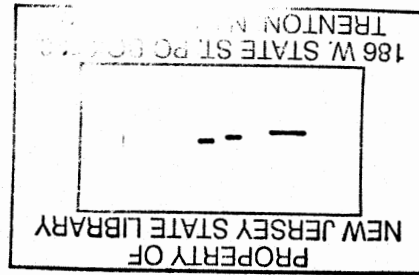
Again, the public should make sure that the municipality establishes a process for obtaining views, concerns and information from area citizens.

WHAT ROLE WILL THE LOCAL COMMUNITY HAVE IN MONITORING THE OPERATION OF A HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY IN THEIR TOWN?

The Siting Act requires that both the Department of Environmental Protection and the local or county board of health conduct weekly inspections of the facility. Training of local inspectors is conducted and funded by the Department of Environmental Protection.

HOW DOES A COMMUNITY PAY FOR THE EXTRA COST OF HOSTING A FACILITY?

Any existing major facility or a newly sited facility is required to pay five percent (5%) of its annual receipts to the host municipality. This money is to be appropriated for added police and fire protection costs, road construction and repair, local inspection and monitoring programs and any other facility-related expenses incurred by the municipality.



**COMMONLY ASKED  
QUESTIONS  
ABOUT  
HAZARDOUS WASTE**

Hazardous waste is a consequence of the industrial society in which we live. All types of manufacturing produce a waste stream, and in many cases that waste could be hazardous to human health and our environment. The production of many of the most familiar products used in our daily lives results in hazardous waste. The proper management, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous waste is a responsibility that government, industry and the public share jointly. In order to help the public have a broader understanding of hazardous waste problems and solutions, we pose the following commonly asked questions.

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## WHAT IS HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Hazardous waste is discarded material that poses a threat to human health or the environment when it is improperly disposed of or handled. Examples of hazardous waste include, among other materials, contaminated solvents, sludges, waste oils and inks, waste streams from electroplating, battery manufacturing, metals smelting and refining, chemical production, printed circuit manufacturing and waste pesticides.

Many of these wastes result from the manufacture of such common household items as plastics, including refrigerator liners, milk jugs, toothbrushes, eye glasses; most drugs and medicines, including aspirin; telephones, insulation for wiring; fabrics, cleansers, dyes, rugs, paints, glues, perfumes, floor tiles, records and tapes, electronic equipment, toys, skis, water pipes, anti-freeze, automobile components...even chewing gum.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE TAKES WHAT FORM?

Hazardous waste can be a solid, a liquid, a sludge or a contained gas.

## DOES HAZARDOUS WASTE INCLUDE RADIOACTIVE WASTE?

While radioactive waste is hazardous, it is not technically included in New Jersey's hazardous waste definition and is regulated by a separate body of law.

## WHY IS HAZARDOUS WASTE DANGEROUS?

By definition, hazardous waste, when managed improperly, poses a threat to human health and the environment. If hazardous waste is not treated, stored or disposed of in an acceptable manner, it may contaminate air and water supplies.

Hazardous waste can also pose a threat via the food chain. Through bioaccumulation, toxics may pass from contaminated soil to plants and animals.

## HOW IS HAZARDOUS WASTE TREATED?

Several treatment techniques exist:

- o Thermal destruction (high temperature incineration) detoxifies the organic components and reduces the volume of waste.
- o Chemical treatment detoxifies the waste, rendering it less hazardous or non-hazardous.
- o Biological treatment breaks down the waste material to non-toxic organic compounds by using micro-organisms.
- o Physical treatment reduces the volume of waste to be disposed of by solidifying it or by removing the soluble and suspended parts of a liquid waste.

## WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REDUCE THE QUANTITIES OF HAZARDOUS WASTE?

In addition to the treatment of hazardous waste, responsible industry is looking for ways to reduce, recycle or even eliminate hazardous waste. Changes in manufacturing processes, the reuse of discarded material, the segregation of hazardous and non-hazardous waste and changes in raw material use, all contribute to a reduction in the quantities of waste generated. Waste exchange programs have emerged recently in New Jersey. These operations list available waste materials and requests for scrap materials to facilitate trade-offs between companies.

### WHAT CAN A CITIZEN DO TO HELP STOP ILLEGAL DUMPING?

If a citizen suspects that illegal treatment, storage or disposal is occurring, he or she should contact the local board of health or the Department of Environmental Protection. A bounty provision in the Act awards one half of any penalty to the person who provides information resulting in the arrest and conviction of the violator.

### WHAT ARE NEW JERSEY'S PROBLEMS?

- Abandoned Sites: Hundreds of "orphaned" sites containing all types of hazardous waste exist in New Jersey.
- Illegal Dumping: Hazardous waste is arbitrarily dumped where it may cause damage to human health and the environment.
- Capacity Shortage: New Jersey does not have enough facilities to properly treat, store and dispose of the hazardous waste it generates.

### WHO GENERATES HAZARDOUS WASTE IN NEW JERSEY?

There are as many as 10,000 generators in the state. These generators range from small privately owned firms such as printing and dry cleaning operations to large corporations such as chemical and manufacturing firms. Generally, the waste comes from the following industries: organic chemicals, primary metals, electroplating, inorganic chemicals, petroleum refining, rubber and plastics. In addition, hospitals, medical research labs, mining operations and household contribute in smaller quantities to the waste stream.

### HOW MUCH HAZARDOUS WASTE IS GENERATED IN NEW JERSEY?

Although the exact figure is unknown, it is estimated that, in New Jersey, approximately 700,000 tons of hazardous waste, excluding ocean dumped acid waste, is produced annually.

### WHERE IS HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSED OF IN NEW JERSEY?

Of the approximately 700,000 tons of waste generated:

- o 275,000 tons are disposed of or treated at the point of generation (on-site),
- o 325,000 tons are disposed of or treated at commercial facilities (off-site),
- o 100,000 tons are taken out of state for treatment and/or disposal.

### MUST NEW JERSEY ACCEPT WASTE FROM OTHER STATES?

The courts have held that a state may not interfere with the interstate commerce of any industry. At present New Jersey is a net exporter of waste. As the surrounding states proceed with their siting processes, it is anticipated that market conditions will equalize the movement of waste among states.

WHAT HAS NEW JERSEY DONE TO DATE TO SOLVE ITS HAZARDOUS WASTE PROBLEMS?

- 1979 - New Jersey bans the disposal of hazardous waste in all county and municipal landfills.
- 1976 - The Spill Compensation and Amended Control Act, which levies a 1977 tax on petroleum products as well as certain chemical products, becomes law. Funds derived from this legislation are used to clean up accidental discharges and abandoned sites.
- 1978 - The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection establishes a manifest system tracking hazardous waste from "cradle to grave."
- 1979 - A Hazardous Waste Strike Force is formed to prosecute those who dump hazardous waste illegally.
- 1981 - The Closure and Contingency Fund Act passes, providing funds for the perpetual monitoring of a disposal facility.
- 1981 - The Major Hazardous Waste Facilities Siting Act, which provides for the siting of new facilities to properly manage New Jersey's hazardous waste, is passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor.

WHO WILL DETERMINE WHERE FACILITIES WILL BE SITED?

The Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Advisory Council will develop criteria for the Commission to use in determining where facilities can be sited. The criteria will outline protection for our air, water, farmland and coastal areas. They will delineate areas where facilities cannot be built such as wetlands, flood hazard area and residential areas. Beyond this, the criteria will be matched with specific treatment technologies so that environmental and health risks will be minimized. Public meetings and hearings will be held throughout the state, and the comments of the public will be considered before final criteria are adopted.

HOW WILL THE COMMISSION KNOW WHAT TYPE OF FACILITIES ARE NEEDED AND HOW MANY SITES NEED TO BE DESIGNATED?

The Siting Act requires the Commission to draw up a "plan for hazardous waste management in New Jersey." This extensive Plan includes an inventory of existing facilities, a projection of the types and quantities of hazardous waste facility need in the future, an analysis of transportation routes, and a list of procedures to reduce or eliminate the amount of hazardous waste generated in the state.

