

Camden Action Plan

Presented by

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Public Notification

NJDEP will develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), a document that would formalize and standardize procedures within the Department, for early public notification of significant air permit applications received from facilities in or near Waterfront South. The enhanced air quality notification process will include:

Significant permits include at a minimum those that trigger the emissions thresholds for requiring state of the art on pollution controls. See NJAC 7:27-8, Appendix 1.

- Electronic notification to community members that sign up for notification.
- Mailing of paper documents to community members that sign up without access to email.
- Notification that includes a brief description of the project, emissions and emission changes.

Enhanced Public Participation

NJDEP will develop enhanced public participation for air permits with significant public interest. NJDEP will develop a SOP that outlines the enhanced public participation program. One objective of this enhanced process is to seek community input on possible emission reduction measures. Under this process, the public can:

- Call with questions.
- Review applications.
- Comment on the applications informally.
- Request an informal availability session.
- Request a formal public comment period, and/or public meeting, pursuant to our existing rules.
- Access complete permit application package at the Ferry Street Public Library.

Stack Testing Results

Notification of stack testing results will also be provided to the interested party lists for permits.

Community Awareness Training

NJDEP will provide community awareness training to permit writers to increase their understanding of the community stressors. This training could include a community tour and discussion with community groups and other stakeholders.

Enhanced Air Quality Evaluation

NJDEP will require or conduct an enhanced air quality evaluation for each preconstruction permit or proposed modification that exceeds State of the Art thresholds (See SOTA thresholds in NJAC 7:27-8, Appendix 1). A SOP will be developed to implement the following:

- For criteria pollutants, the NJDEP will conduct an air quality impact analysis to determine if the air emissions exceed standards established to protect human health, welfare and the environment. Included in the analysis will be nearby major sources and fugitive emissions as appropriate. For the criteria pollutants, background air quality levels are added to the modeled levels for the facility to get a realistic determination of total impacts from cumulative emissions to compare to the ambient air quality standards.
- For air toxics, the NJDEP will conduct a facility- wide risk assessment to evaluate potential risks for all releases at the facility over reporting thresholds. (Reporting thresholds are listed at NJAC 7:27-8, Table B.)

Permit Requirements/Action

NJDEP may establish permit requirements based on the air quality evaluation (see commitment above), including but not limited to:

- Better air pollution control.
- Alternative processes or pollution prevention measures.
- Offsetting emission reductions from other sources (Local offsets and additional voluntary offsets will be encouraged where there are significant predicted air quality impacts).
- Dust Management plans. (Enclosures will be considered during permit review if dust management is inadequate to address potential fugitive emissions.)
- Denial of the application, in accordance with the air program's "Risk Screening Policy and Second-Level Risk Screening," (See Appendix E).

Odor Control

NJDEP will consider the need for odor control measures in all future air permits for processes with odor causing potential. Odor control measures will be highlighted in public notices.

Diesel Retrofit Funding Priority

On November 8, 2005, voters approved ballot question #2, a constitutional amendment that will fund the diesel program and will be paid for with a portion of revenue from the existing Corporate Business Tax (CBT). The amendment will not raise taxes, but over the next ten years will shift a portion of the CBT revenue currently earmarked for environmental programs to provide grants for the cost of air pollution control equipment, which will reduce the levels of fine-particle pollution from diesel-powered engines. To this end, as NJDEP develops rules for implementing the particulate control retrofit legislation, funding priority will be considered for urban areas, including Environmental Justice Petition areas.

Voluntary Diesel Retrofit

NJDEP has begun outreach to facilities, including the South Jersey Port Corporation, in Waterfront South who may want to voluntarily consider installation of diesel retrofits, the use of electric versus diesel power, and other diesel emission reduction strategies to aid in particulate reduction. NJDEP recognizes the need to and will conduct additional outreach to local facilities and officials regarding this action plan, the current diesel risk law and voluntary strategies.

Exposure Study

The Environmental Occupational Health and Sciences Institute (EOHSI) was awarded funding from the Health Effects Institute to implement the "Personal and Ambient Exposures to Air Toxics in Camden, New Jersey". The NJDEP is consulting with EOHSI on the project and is providing ambient air quality measurements, assisting with community outreach and reviewing data. This work will help to further the Department's goal of identifying risk reduction strategies in Camden Waterfront South.

As requested by the community, NJDEP has assisted in coordinating a meeting at the CCMUA for Dr. Paul Liroy and Dr. Tina Fan to present the preliminary results of the study "Personal and Ambient Exposures to Air Toxics in Waterfront South" to the community. This meeting was held on January 18, 2006 at 6:30 PM at the CCMUA.

Dust Study

The NJDEP is actively seeking funding to collect and analyze dust samples from outdoor areas at neighborhood homes and compare the samples to “fingerprints” from dusty sources in the areas such as St. Lawrence Cement, junkyards, vacant lots, etc. This project is critical to determining the sources of dust emissions in the neighborhood, and it is the first step in understanding and developing a solution to this problem.

Odor Complaints

To help facilitate the odor response commitment above, NJDEP's Environmental Justice Program has distributed to the community a customized "Camden Waterfront South Odor Reporting Fact Sheet" that includes the basic steps needed to file an odor complaint and the direct phone numbers to reach the NJDEP's Southern Regional Office during business hours. During non-business hours, complaints must be called into the DEP Hotline.

Asthma Outreach

The NJDEP's Division of science Research and Technology developed a web page for "The Asthma Outreach and Education Initiative in Camden Waterfront South" project. Information and updates on this project can be found at:

[http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/asthma/.](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/asthma/)

Public Meetings

The Environmental Justice Task Force hosted two meetings in the Camden, Waterfront South neighborhood to present this draft Action Plan to the Waterfront South community and address additional community concerns. The meetings were held on November 3, 2005 and November 29, 2005. NJDEP Commissioner Campbell and NJDHSS Commissioner Jacobs hosted the November 29, 2005 meeting.