



Air and Waste Matters

DNREC Division of Air and Waste Management

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Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2010

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DNREC Emergency Response — Ready to Assist

Friday the 13th lived up to its reputation last November when Delaware beach communities were hit by one of the worst coastal storms in Delaware history. The remnants of Tropical Storm Ida combined with a Nor'easter to create massive flooding and high tides for two days. Newly replenished beaches were eroded and nearby communities were completely inundated with water.

The Division's Emergency Response Team was there on the roads and in

the air, ready to assist residents with emergencies and assess coastal damage. While property owners surveyed the extent of flooding on Friday morning, waves continued to wash up under beachfront homes in Indian Beach south of Dewey Beach and completely covered roads further north in Lewes and other coastal communities.

Del. 1 South was blocked by DeIDOT at south Dewey Beach due to massive flooding and sand on the road-

(Continued on page 2)



The News Journal/G. Emeigh

The Division's Emergency Response Team checks the Oak Orchard area as resilient residents take to the streets in kayaks on Friday the 13th.

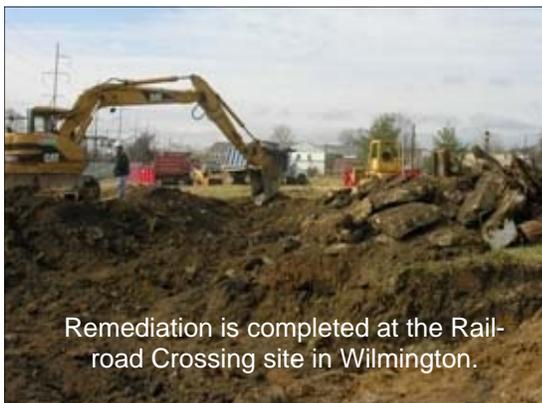
Record Brownfield Cleanups in 2009

Despite 2009's economic woes, DNREC's Site Investigation and Restoration Branch (SIRB) had a rather remarkable year. SIRB set a record in 2009 for site cleanups—completing 58 Proposed and Final Plans of Remedial Action!

The plans outline clean up needed at sites ranging from those with minor contamination to those requiring extensive soil removal or “dig and hauls.” The key to redeveloping these sites is the cleanup of historical releases within specified timeframes. Redevelopment of these sites can also result in new jobs.

The record amount of cleanups occurred in part because developers saw opportunity in the downturn in property values and purchased blighted Brownfield properties. These properties were redeveloped for various uses including a car wash and homes.

SIRB also streamlined the cleanup process and worked closely with interested parties to manage the extraordinary workload while maintaining its high standards. This is especially note-



Remediation is completed at the Railroad Crossing site in Wilmington.

worthy as SIRB performed this record-breaking amount of work while handling several new environmental responsibilities last year. The Brownfield cleanups were done in addition to comprehensive environmental evaluations at the newly closed Chrysler and GM assembly plants, and ongoing investigation at the NVF plant in Yorklyn.

SIRB was also involved in numerous enforcement actions against responsible parties and oversaw the restoration of properties in the environmentally sensitive inland bays to “baseline” conditions under the Natural Resource Damage (NRD) program.

The branch works tirelessly to ensure that sites are properly remediated to protect human health, welfare, and Delaware's precious environment. SIRB is already looking forward to breaking its own record in 2010! For more information on SIRB's outstanding Brownfields Development Program, please visit:

<http://www.awm.delaware.gov/SIRB/Pages/Brownfields.aspx>.

Article by T. Ratsep, SIRB

DNREC Emergency Response — Ready to Assist *Continued...*

way. Surf Avenue in Rehoboth Beach was partially washed away, and high tides continued to cause major beach erosion and flooding.

Following the storm, DNREC worked directly with property owners and contractors to expedite any permits and approvals needed for planned repairs and rebuilding efforts. Residents were encouraged to contact their local town or city, along with the county and DNREC officials prior to making repairs, if a dune crossover, dune

steps or any part of a home was damaged during the coastal storm. Staff provided specific information about what types of repairs and approvals were required and permitted. Community and DNREC officials also helped determine proper construction practices for withstanding the next big storm.

For more information on the Division's Emergency Services, please visit:

<http://www.awm.delaware.gov/Pages/EmergencyServices.aspx>.

Article by J. Bethard, EPRB

Annual State TRI Data—Good News and Bad News

Good news! The annual Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data and reports for 2008 from Delaware's facilities compiled by DNREC show a decrease in reported emissions since 2007 and also since 1998. The year 1998 forms a baseline when TRI reporting requirements expanded significantly and more facilities began reporting to the program.

This is the 22nd year of TRI data collection from facilities for distribution to the public and the first year that the data has been released to the public in the same year in which it was received. The bad news? The 2008 data partly reflect the impact that economic conditions played in the decrease in emissions due to lower power production and the closing of two reporting facilities.

Statewide, TRI total on-site releases reported in Delaware for 2008 were lower by 11% compared to 2007. For 2008, reported on-site releases totaled 9.45 million pounds, down from the 10.65 million pounds reported for 2007, and down 20% from the 11.86 million pounds reported for 1998.

The data indicate the decrease is in large part attributable to reports of less acid gas releases by the Indian River, Edge Moor/Hay Road, and Valero refinery power plants, and reduced nitrate compound discharges into the Delaware River from the Valero refinery and into the Nanticoke River from IN-VISTA Seaford. To a smaller degree, facility closings at Chrysler and Dow Reichhold also added to the reductions.

Although reported on-site emissions decreased and total toxic waste amounts

decreased, on-site releases of known, probable or possible carcinogens increased in 2008, primarily from amounts disposed on-site to land and released to air.

DNREC is committed to working with business and government sectors and members of the public to improve air quality and water quality by developing cost-effective methods of reducing all toxic emissions across all industries. Additional reductions in facility emission will be realized when full compliance with DNREC's multi-pollutant regulation is achieved.

The TRI detail and summary reports for calendar year 2008 are now available at:

<http://www.serc.delaware.gov/reports.shtml>.

Data is available for review at:

<http://www.serc.delaware.gov/services/search/index.shtml>.

*Article from DNREC Press Release
12-1-09 and J. Parker, EPRB*



J. Wilson, PA

Indian River Power Plant, located near Millsboro, is an important producer of electricity for the region. The facility also ranked No. 1 for onsite TRI chemical releases, with a reduction of 11% in 2008.

Working on the Railroad

It started as a simple Brownfields cleanup at a historic Wilmington house – a home that once belonged to the family of one of Delaware’s busiest “stationmasters” on the Underground Railroad. During the cleanup, workers stumbled upon a small, mysterious tunnel near the basement, uncovering an archeological puzzle.

Without repairs, the old, dilapidated building at 609 Washington Street was barely recognizable as the former grand, historic home of Thomas Garrett’s eldest son, Elwood Garrett. The poor condition of the home, dating back to about 1848, belied its illustrious past. The brick front of the three-story house was crumbling and had to be completely removed and rebuilt by the City of Wilmington. The back of the structure had deteriorated from decades of neglect. Hardly the home for the son of one of the most prominent figures in the history of the Underground Railroad.

Thomas Garrett was one of Delaware’s greatest humanitarians and perhaps the busiest “stationmaster” on the entire Underground Railroad. Harriet Tubman was his good friend and made frequent trips to his safe house while smuggling slaves. Garrett helped bring more than 2,300 slaves to freedom through his hardware store in Wilmington which had a secret panel for hiding slaves. Perhaps the tunnel found at Elwood Garrett’s house was also used to hide slaves?

The tunnel was discovered completely by accident. In 2005, the historic house and property were donated by the City of Wilmington to United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware, Inc. (UCP) to develop affordable and accessible apartments for people with disabilities. The property was given to the UCP foundation with the understanding that the building’s historic features would be preserved.

Using a \$1.1 million grant secured from the Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), renovation of the building began in 2008.

However, before the work began, the HUD grant required a complete release of liability with respect to any environmental contamination at the property. That meant environmental soil sampling was needed and DNREC’s Site Investigation and Restoration Branch (SIRB) stepped in to assist. SIRB oversees cleanup, or remediation of sites that are contaminated as a result of past use. Very often, these sites, from dry cleaners to chemical companies, are considered brownfields and qualify for remediation under the Brownfields Program.



Archeologist Juliette Gerhardt reviews her drawing and measurements for the tunnel structure.

Initial environmental soil sampling in 2008 indicated that the site was impacted with the usual contaminants — lead, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons and arsenic — commonly found in surface soils at brownfields sites in Wilmington.

(Continued on page 5)

Working on the Railroad *Continued...*

In April of 2009, a large track hoe was completing soil remediation when the unexpected discovery occurred. The track hoe operator uncovered a small opening to the brick-lined tunnel with his track-hoe shovel.

It is much to the credit of the track-hoe operator that the soil removal activities were stopped immediately. It is also amazing that the track hoe, a massive, multi-ton digging machine, did not damage the tunnel while performing the remediation. After the find, the operator reported that the track hoe was actually sitting directly on the tunnel several times that day!

Following the discovery, the Director of UCP, Bill McCool, called the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office to report the find. Given the building's history, they recommended an archeological evaluation. However, the clock was still ticking on the funding, and time and labor were in short supply. SIRB Manager Kathy Stiller proposed using the archeological evaluation as a cross-training exercise for the SIRB staff, thereby providing properly-trained labor to expedite the evaluation and help keep costs down?

Volunteer SIRB staff worked shoulder to shoulder with the archeological experts, but soon found out, it was painstaking and physically demanding work.

First, they uncovered the structure and removed the soil and surface debris. Earth-moving by hand and wheelbarrow can be quite a chore. However, if you add in the required sieving of the soil for the smallest of artifacts, you really have a grueling task.

It was dirty, sweaty and exhausting work, day in and day out; sun, rain and mud, no matter. Over the course of two weeks, the volunteers would leave their offices early and come back late, dirt and mud-caked, completely spent for the day. Even though it was tough going, everyone involved was intrigued by the Garrett House's history. Sadly for all involved, no evidence was uncovered in the archeological evaluation indicating that the tunnel was used as a hiding place for slaves and the actual use of the tunnel will remain a mystery.

When the work is complete, seven apartments, off-street parking, an elevator and an accessible entryway will have been created for people with disabilities. The renovation serves as a new beginning for people with disabilities—a lasting and fitting tribute to the home's storied past in the struggle for equality for all.

Article by C. Wirtz, DAWM



Stephanie Scholl and Stephen Johnson of SIRB assist with screening for artifacts at the back of the Elwood Garrett house.

Making a Huge Difference



The Small Business Assistance Program within DNREC is a free service available to all new and existing small businesses located in the State of Delaware. Unknown to most, it is also the very best deal in town with Kim Chesser, the Small Business Ombudsman, at the helm.

She is the one-stop-one-person-shop for small businesses. Really, though, most small business owners see her more as their personal guardian angel in the unfamiliar world of regulations and state statutes that apply to their businesses. She is a virtual powerhouse of permit information combined with caring concern for the small business community.

The Small Business Assistance program helps small business owners understand their environmental requirements and comply with them in the easiest and most-effective way. It is Chesser's dedication, insight, and advocacy of the needs of small business owners that makes the greatest difference in her compliance efforts.

Chesser works with the USEPA, the Small Business Administration, Dept. of Commerce, Delaware Economic Development Office, and other federal agencies to assist small businesses in complying with environmental regulations. In addition, Chesser manages the Regulatory Advisory Service (RAS). This is a free service to businesses that are just start-

ing up or changing operations. It is a chance for the business to come in and meet with the regulatory programs within DNREC to learn about environmental requirements prior to beginning their new operations.

Truth be told, though, working with trade associations and small businesses to bring about voluntary compliance with regulations is really her forte. That's because she wasn't always a small business ombudsman. She also served as an Environmental Protection Officer (EPO) for the Division of Air and Waste Management from 1996 until 2001, attending the State Police Academy in 1995. During her time as an EPO, she saw the need for compliance assistance firsthand, as well as enforcement.

The Small Business Ombudsman position was created in 1990 in response to the USEPA's Clean Air Act (CAA) amendments, which legislated a state Small Business Assistance Program. The position is funded through Title V of the CAA amendments. In 2001, the position became available and Kim Chesser found her mission in life. According to Chesser, the most surprising aspect of what she found was how small businesses **really want to comply**, but are completely overwhelmed by the process.

Many of her small business owners are the typical "mom and pop shops" that form the backbone of our economy. Husbands and wives work hand in hand to see to all aspects of running the business. Chesser sees the same pattern no matter the business. "Small business owners have very little time or even the ability to find the respective regulations that apply to their businesses. And, most of the time, their businesses involve regulations and compliance for multimedia, so they must search out the regulations for each media. This is no small feat."

Making a Huge Difference *Continued...*

Chesser also noted that once they find the applicable regulations, they have to read them and properly interpret them for their business, and finally implement the changes needed in their business operations. Anyone who deals with state and federal regulations definitely feels their pain.

Although Delaware is a small state, Chesser's territory is quite large as she covers the entire spectrum of small businesses. She works closely with the Air Quality Management (AQM) Section to anticipate new regulations or any changes that might affect small businesses and then offers workshops on compliance prior to the implementation of the new regulations. She's held workshops for dry cleaners, auto repair/body shops, electroplating facilities and gas stations, just to name a few.

She also assists with the Pollution Prevention Program including the Clean Marina and Delaware Green Lodging programs.

And did we mention that she recently completed the Dale Carnegie Leadership Academy, and her team won the Innovative Award? No surprise there, as it was for a proposal that would definitely benefit small business owners: streamlining the billing process by moving to an online system for air permits. Her team is currently in the process of working with IT, AQM and our accounting group to implement the project.

Her latest endeavor is to offer training to auto repair shops on best practices for collision repair, based on the amendments to air quality regulations for motor vehicle or mobile equipment surface coating operations. Chesser is going to be very busy continuing to make a huge difference in the lives and livelihood of small business owners.

If you want to keep up with Kim and the Small Business Assistance Program, please visit her website at:

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/SBA/Pages/Default.aspx>

or, call Kim at (302) 739-9909. She would be most happy to help you!

Article by C. Wirtz, DAWM



A. Rittberg, TMB

Kim Chesser provides small business information to a participant at the Governor's Entrepreneurial Expo in June 2009.

DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONTROL

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We're on the web!
www.awm.delaware.gov

Visit the Site

Investigation and
Restoration Branch
Brownfields Website

at:

[http://
www.awm.delaware.gov
v/SIRB/Pages/
Brownfields.aspx](http://www.awm.delaware.gov/v/SIRB/Pages/Brownfields.aspx)
for more Brownfields
information.



The Division of Air and Waste Management includes the following sections and responsibilities:

- **Air Quality Management Section** — air monitoring and regulating air emissions.
- **Tank Management Branch** — maintenance and installation of underground and above ground storage tanks & overseeing cleanup of tanks which may leak.
- **Emergency Prevention and Response Branch** — preventing industrial accidents, assuring emergency planning and community right-to-know, and responding to environmental emergencies.
- **Environmental Crimes Unit** — the Enforcement Officers enforce the state's air, waste and water pollution laws, and participate on DNREC's Environmental Response Team by responding to environmental emergencies.
- **Site Investigation and Restoration Branch** — remediation of sites contaminated by hazardous substances (Superfund/Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup Program).
- **Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch** — reuse, recycling, transport and disposal of solid and hazardous waste.

EASY REFERENCE PHONE NUMBERS

24-Hour Report and Spill Notification Line - 1-800-662-8802
Aboveground Storage Tanks - 302-395-2500
Air Quality - Dover Office - 302-739-9402
- New Castle Office - 302-323-4542
Asbestos - New Castle - 302-323-4542
- Kent & Sussex - 302-739-9402
Boiler Safety - 302-744-2735
Brownfields - 302-395-2600
Emergency Prevention and Response - 302-739-9404
Environmental Crimes Unit - 302-739-9401 or 1-800-662-8802
Hazardous Waste - 302-739-9403
Medical Waste - 302-739-9403
Open Burning - 302-739-9402
Outreach Ombudsman - 302-395-2515
Recycling - 302-739-9403
Site Investigation & Restoration Branch (Superfund/Brownfields) - 302-395-2600
Small Business Ombudsman - 302-739-9909
Solid Waste - 302-739-9403
Underground Storage Tanks - 302-395-2500

DID YOU KNOW?

DNREC's Environmental Crimes Unit's surveillance cameras and diligent efforts once again led to the arrest and guilty plea of a New Castle County man for illegal dumping at the DNREC DART Mid-County yard waste site near Bear.

DNREC's Environmental Crimes Unit asks the public to be vigilant for dumpers and to report any dumping incidents by calling a 24-hour hotline, 800-662-8802, or by calling #DNR for Verizon Wireless customers. Dumping costs taxpayers and violators pay a \$500 fine plus court costs!