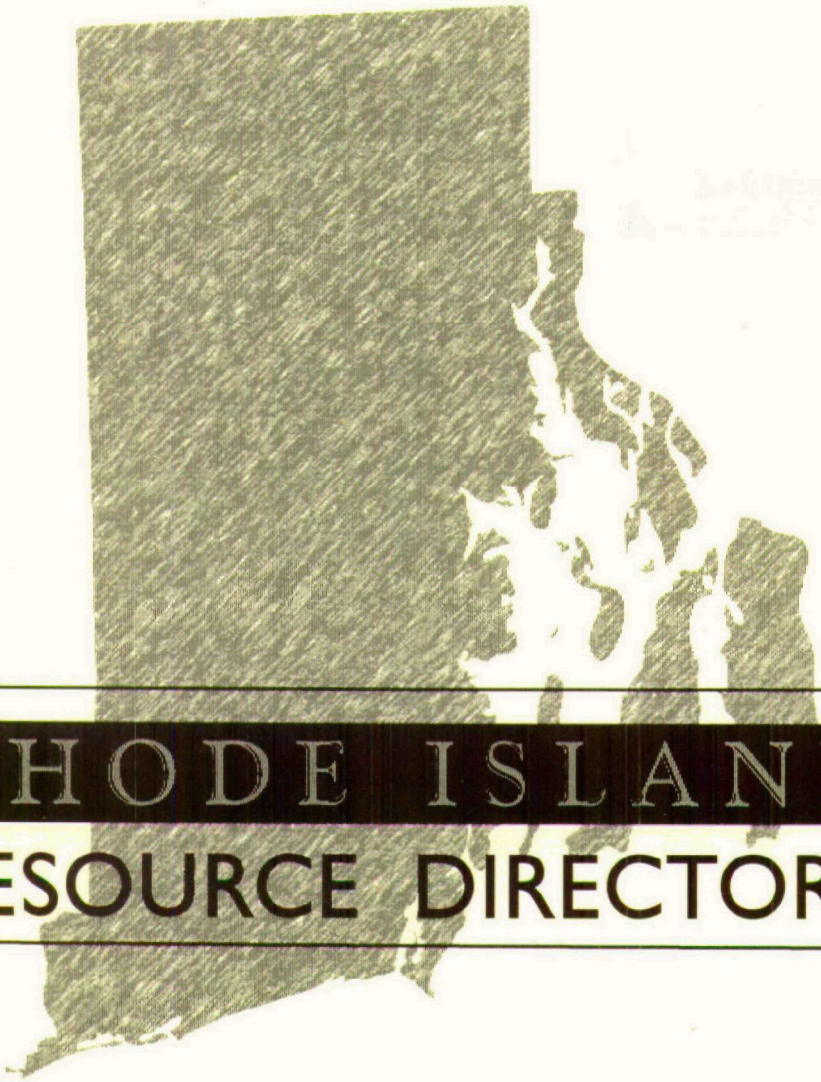
Rhode Island State Unit
Office of Ecosystem Protection
Fiscal Years 1998-1999
September 1999

EPA
New England Office



RHODE ISLAND
RESOURCE DIRECTORY

An Inventory of EPA's Ongoing Programs, Regulatory Framework, Grants, Initiatives, and Resources Relevant to the Citizenry of the State of Rhode Island

"Sailing Rhode Island"

Photo courtesy of
Rhode Island Tourism Division
Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation

Greetings! September 1999

President Clinton's "re-inventing government" initiative asked federal government agencies to find ways to streamline services, cut costs and better serve our customers. We believe we achieved this goal as a result of our regional reorganization efforts and at the same time, adhere to our mandate of protecting human health and the environment through our continuing efforts to bring environmental protection to the citizenry of Rhode Island.

As a result of our reorganization, the coordination of all Rhode Island state programs and multimedia issues are now located in one area - the Rhode Island State Program Unit here at EPA Region I, New England. As the Director of the Rhode Island State Program, I am pleased to present one of many efforts underway in Rhode Island - our Rhode Island Resource Directory. The primary purpose of this Directory is to help all of our partners and the public improve their understanding of EPA supported activities, and hopefully become a more effective agency. Some highlights of this document are:

Special Places. In addition to the important baseline environmental work that we do in Rhode Island, protection of ecosystems is one of our primary goals. To achieve these goals, we have brought the resources of the federal government to restore a damaged ecosystem or protection of a threatened system which is ecologically important. Working with our federal partners, state and local governments, business, industry and environmental organizations, we have identified *three special places* in Rhode Island to concentrate EPA staff, programs and federal financial resources: *Pawcatuck Watershed, Providence Urban Area,* and *Upper Narragansett Bay - Woonasquatucket River.* Fact sheets describing these efforts start at page 87.

Grant Information. In response to the many questions we have received from our Rhode Island citizens, this information provides a view of every EPA program affecting Rhode Island and lists every active grant awarded up through mid-1999. Please note that these funding amounts are approximate. In 1998 alone EPA grant awards to Rhode Island totaled $35,742,663.

Throughout this directory, we have tried to provide enough information to inform Rhode Island citizens without overwhelming them. In every subject area, EPA and/or state contacts are identified and ready to provide additional information. In all cases, we have tried to explain WHAT the EPA activity is, WHY we are doing it (the environmental benefit), WHERE in the state it is happening and HOW MUCH it costs Please note the information at "*How to use this Directory*" located at the Program Directory Index on page 4 to maximize its use. We intend to update this Directory every two years and if you want to get on our mailing list to receive future updated editions and to also offer comments about it, please fill in the form located at the end of this publication. Additional information about environmental programs in EPA-New England is also available at our web site: www.epa gov/region01 and also toll free within New England at our *Customer Call Center* at 1-888-372-7341

Robert E Mendoza, Director
Rhode Island State Program

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - New England Region
Office of Ecosystem Protection - Rhode Island State Unit

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Alison Walsh	Smart Growth Specialist for RI, MA and CT	(617) 918-1593
Al Ku'ahi Wong	Outreach Coordinator / RI Resource Directory Consumer Awareness Award Program Environmental Educator Award Program	(617) 918-1596

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RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE DIRECTORY

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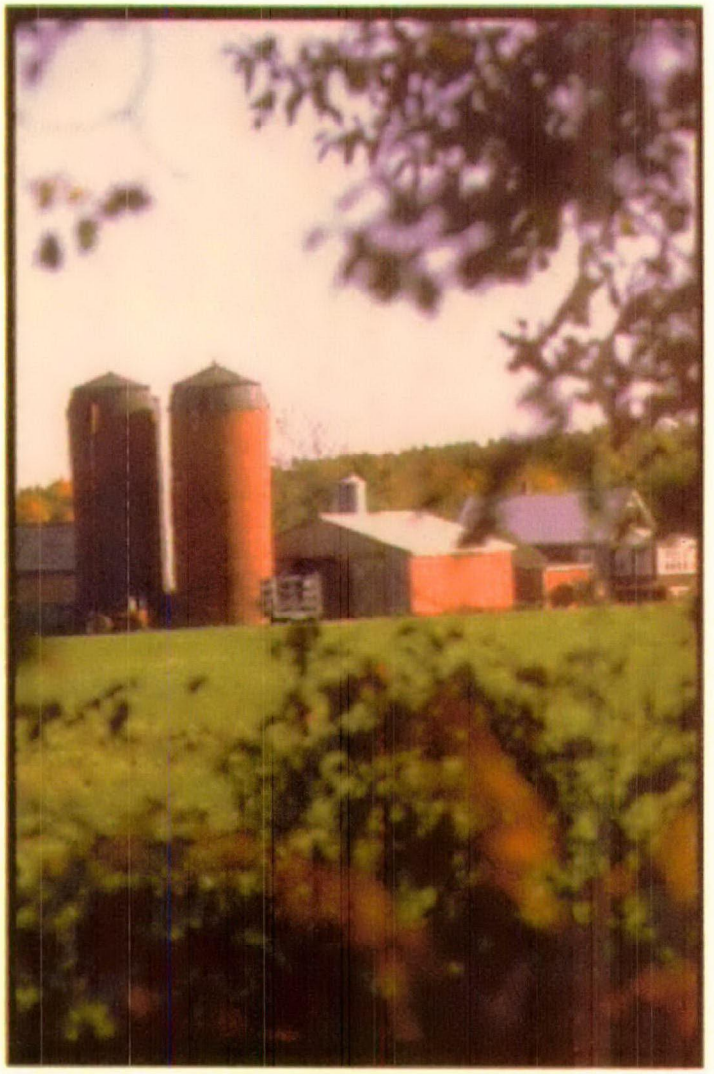

Farmland, Rhode Island

Photo courtesy of
Rhode Island Tourism Division
Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation

PROGRAM DIRECTORY INDEX

How To Use This Directory

To find the information you seek refer to the page number listed for the categories below. Many of the programs in this Directory are listed *under* the major environmental acts to show where the funding authority comes from. As an example, the Wetlands Program is shown in the Clean Water Act section and *not* listed alphabetically in the "W" categories. Therefore, always refer to this Program Directory Index to find where your topic is located.

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RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE DIRECTORY

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS PROGRAM

EPA Contact: Johanna Hunter, (617) 918-1041

A. General Description

President Clinton signed an executive order establishing the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, a new program to help communities restore and revitalize waters and waterfronts. More than ever before, Americans are looking toward our rivers as a source for improving community life The American Heritage Rivers Initiative will integrate the economic, environmental and historic preservation programs and services of federal agencies to benefit communities engaged in efforts to protect their rivers. The American Heritage Rivers Initiative:

- ❑ has designated fourteen rivers as American Heritage Rivers in July 1998,
- ❑ supports the local community's goals for that river or river stretch;
- ❑ helps to cut red tape and provide focused federal support to designated rivers and
- ❑ helps to develop additional information for the use of all river communities.

Through the American Heritage Rivers web site, valuable information about our nation's rivers is easily available to everyone. Information organized geographically on flood events, population change, road network, condition of water resources and partnerships already at work in the area are available. Customized maps and environmental and educational assessment models are also available. The address of the web site is:
http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/heritage/rivers.html

B. Blackstone and Woonasquatucket River - American Heritage Rivers in Rhode Island

Blackstone-Woonasquataucket River Navigator: Johanna Hunter, (617) 918-1041
Woonasquatucket River Contact: Jane B. Sherman, The Providence Plan,(401) 455-8880
Blackstone River Contact: Michael Creasey, Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor Commission, (401) 762-0250

General Description

The Blackstone River in Massachusetts and Rhode Island the Woonasquatucket River in Rhode Island flow through 26 communities with more than 1 million people before merging to flow into Providence Harbor, and then into the head of Narrangansett Bay. Descendants of the Nipmuc, Wampanoag and Narragansett tribes that inhabited the area at the time of the first white settlers still live there today

American Heritage Rivers Program - *continued*

Historic sites along the 46-mile-long Blackstone and the 14-mile-long Woonasquatucket tell the story of the region's transition from pristine forest to agriculture to early industry. Dozens of dams harnessed the river's power to fuel the factories that made the area a birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution. The river-front cities of Worcester and Providence are two of the three largest cities in New England. Heavy industrial use of the rivers left a legacy of pollution and abandoned waterfronts Recent cleanup and restoration efforts, however, have improved water quality and reclaimed historical areas and buildings More than 5,000 buildings in the region are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and thousands more are eligible for listing. Dams built along the rivers helped create marshes and wetlands, which have made the region a major flyway for migrating waterfowl. The watershed is home to more than 60 endangered and threatened species, including the blue-spotted salamander and the eastern box turtle, and its forests contain extensive old-growth stands. The 26 communities along the rivers have undertaken a variety of efforts over the past two decades to improve water quality, restore historic districts, and revitalize local economies. Designation as an American Heritage River will help integrate ongoing and future activities, allowing the communities to pool resources and work in concert to realize their visions for the Blackstone and Woonasquatucket Rivers

Meetings have been held with agency and community representatives on both the Blackstone Woonasquatucket rivers The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has been identified as the sponsoring Federal agency that hired a *River Navigator*. The Blackstone-Woonasquatucket River Navigator will respect the partnership of the rivers, while representing the rivers equally and helping to develop a partnership among the many interests involved with this American Heritage River designation.

The coordination of federal assistance is being provided by the *New England Federal Partners for Natural Resources*, an interagency committee comprised of the U.S. Department of the Army (Corps of Engineers), U S. Department of Agriculture (Cooperative Extension, Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service), U S. Department of Commerce (National Marine Fisheries Service), U S Department of Interior (National Park Service, Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Geological Survey), U.S. EPA, and U.S. Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration).

A general Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted and reviewed by each river's *American Heritage River Committee* It will be signed by all participating Federal agencies and representatives of both rivers. A signing ceremony was held on July 19, 1999.

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

EPA CEIT Contact: Carol Kilbride (617) 918-1831
CEIT Information Center: (800) 575-CEIT

A. General Description

The Center for Environmental Industry and Technology (CEIT) acts as a catalyst for bringing new environmental technologies to the marketplace and addressing the concerns of New England's envirotech industry CEIT focuses its resources on five problem areas facing the envirotech industry: access to state and federal programs, access to technology demonstration sites and testing, assistance in dealing with regulatory and institutional barriers, access to capital and access to export opportunities.

B. CEIT Program in Rhode Island

With increasing national concern over storm water pollutants, and the need to comply with state and local water quality mandates in Rhode Island, planners, engineers and local decision-makers need access to the most current information on what technologies are available to help with meeting water resource protection goals. EPA New England's Center for Environmental Industry and Technology (CEIT) sponsored an "Innovative Storm Water Technologies Trade Show" on May 25, 1999 to showcase new and innovative devices for treating storm water The show featured a mix of vendor presentations and product displays. providing an opportunity to view new systems, discuss specific site problems with vendors, and obtain information on product cost and performance. Additional exhibitors included a range of manufacturers and suppliers of storm water and erosion control materials that support these innovative installations. The trade show was held on May 25, 1999 at the Rhode Island Convention Center. On September 28, 1999, CEIT will be sponsoring a trade show for Innovative/Alternative on-site wastewater treatment and disposal technologies at the RI Convention Center This event will feature a day of presentations and exhibits of new and innovative systems and components for treating on-site wastewater. *For more information about this and other upcoming events, call the CEIT Hotline at 1-800-575-2348*

CLEAN AIR ACT

EPA RI Contact: Emanuel Souza, (617) 918-1594
RIDEM Contact: Steve Majkut, (401) 222-2808, ext. 7010
EPA-NE Mobil Sources Hotline: (800) 821-1237

I. General Description

The Clean Air Act (CAA) and The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 seek to protect human health and the environment from emissions that pollute ambient, or outdoor, air. To ensure that air quality in all areas of the US meets certain federally mandated minimum standards, it assigns primary responsibility to the States. The Act deems areas not meeting the standards as non-

attainment and requires them to implement specific air pollution controls. It establishes a comprehensive permit system for all sources. Other provisions address ozone depleting substances, acid rain, air toxins, enforcement, clean air research, disadvantaged business concerns, and employment transition and assistance.

New Clean Air Standards

EPA's new air quality standards are the first update in 20 years for ozone (smog) and the first in ten years for particulate matter (soot). The updated standards, a major step forward in public health protection, will protect 125 million Americans, including 35 million children, from the health hazards of air pollution. Central to updated standards is an implementation package that provides a flexible, common sense and cost-effective means for communities and businesses to be able to achieve clean air EPA's implementation package has four basic features·

1. Continue progress by keeping current ozone standards and plans in place until they are achieved and not disrupting progress currently being made;
2. Provide new tools for areas to address regional sources of pollution;
3. Classifying areas that achieve early reductions as "transitional" areas to avoid potentially burdensome planning of pollution reduction requirements, and;
4 Initiate a new round of review of the particulate matter science, to be completed before areas are designated as non-attainment and before any pollution controls would be required.

II. Clean Air Status in Rhode Island

Air quality concerns in Rhode Island remain largely due to the failure of Rhode Island to attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone. EPA New England is working with the State so they can come into compliance with the standards. On July 16, 1997, the air quality standards for ozone (smog) and particulate matter (soot) were revised. On December 17, 1998, EPA proposed revocation of the 1 hour standard for ozone in Rhode Island. Rhode Island is still classified as non-attainment for the 1 hour ozone standard until final rule making. However, Rhode Island has air quality that meets the 1 hour standard It is not clear at this time if Rhode Island will meet the new 8 hour standard. EPA will be working with the State on this determination and will make it's finding by July 2000. However, it is difficult to predict with assurance those areas, if any, which will not meet the proposed air quality standard for fine particulate matter. The future attainment or non-attainment status of Rhode Island will depend on the monitored levels of air pollutants over the next few years

Impact of New Standards on Areas of Rhode Island

At this time it appears that there may be no change in Rhode Island's ozone area designations. Since ozone is a regional problem, Rhode Island will continue to pursue the abatement of

interstate upwind sources of ozone and ozone precursors by working with the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) and other Clean Air Act authorities.

It is difficult to predict with assurance those areas, if any, which will not meet the new air quality standards for fine particulate matter. To address the issue of the new standards for fine particulates, Rhode Island will be working with EPA to begin the establishment of a monitoring network. Data from these monitoring stations will be used to determine whether Rhode Island is in attainment for the new particulate matter standards.

III. Programs and Initiatives to Achieve Clean Air in Rhode Island

The following programs and initiatives are directed to maintaining and improving clean air in Rhode Island· Acid Rain Program, Construction Permit Program, Indoor Environments Program, Title V Operating Permit Program, Urban Bus Retrofitting Program, and the Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program. A brief description follows:

Acid Rain Program

General Description - Title IV of the Clean air Act describes the Acid Rain Program. This program uses market forces to encourage utilities to reduce their sulfur dioxide emissions. Utilities must install continuous emission monitors, and hold one "allowance" for each ton of sulfur dioxide they emit. Utilities are given allowances based on their emissions during 1985-1987. Allowances may be bought, sold, or traded, so if a utility can reduce emissions enough, they must buy allowances. The program will also require reduction sin the emission of nitrogen oxides. In 2000, Manchester Street Station in Providence will be in the program They have already obtained a Phase II Permit. Newer facilities, such as the gas-fired plant in Tiverton, will also be affected. 1995 was the first year of compliance under the allowance system for the larger utilities in the program. The units affected by the program reduced their sulfur dioxide emissions by over five million tons since 1980, nationwide. None of the affected units are in Rhode Island.

Construction Permit Program

General Description - Rhode Island's construction permitting program is designed to ensure that economic growth will occur in harmony with the preservation of existing air resources. Under the program, Rhode Island carefully reviews major new sources or modifications of air pollution to ensure compliance with the applicable National Ambient Air Quality standard, air quality increments and control requirements. In brief, the permitting program requires sources to install emission controls that minimize pollutants and to perform an air quality analysis to demonstrate these pollutants do not violate emission standards For larger sources or modifications, the program also provides opportunities for public comment.

Clean Air Act - *continued*

Indoor Environments Program

General Description

The Regional goals for the Indoor Environments Program are to reduce the public health risk from indoor air exposures to environmental pollutants, concentrating on the vulnerable populations of children Risk reduction activities are now focused on limiting children's exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and other asthmagens, which are environmental factors that cause or aggravate asthma, in their homes and schools

The risk reduction activities are accomplished by promoting education, awareness and adoption of control measures that promote healthy indoor environments. EPA has developed a large number of fact sheets, manuals and training programs to broadly disseminate information on common pollutants and methods to reduce and control exposures Most of the information is can available free to the public and can be ordered through calling the Indoor Air Quality Information Clearinghouse at 1-800-438-4318.

In order to actively promote a comprehensive environmental approach in schools, EPA recommends that schools establish environmental teams to implement "Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Action Kit" which lays out actions that schools can follow to prevent and resolve problems. EPA has developed a broad group of partners who have assisted in developing the indoor air quality information, such as the American Lung Association, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers Association, the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers, as well as the Association of School Business Officials In Rhode Island, the Regional program is working closely with the Rhode Island Committee on Occupational Health and Safety and the Rhode Island Hospital's Depart of Pediatrics to promote environmental concerns in schools to reduce indoor asthmagens.

Title V Operating Permit Program

General Description - The purpose of the operating program is to put in one place all of the requirements concerning air emissions that apply to affected sources. When fully in place, these permits will ensure that sources are not being subjected to conflicting requirements and that all parties have a clear understanding of those requirements. Rhode Island's federally approved program is expected to have permitted all affected sources by July 2001 with 60% of the sources permitted by July 1999, which account for 80% of the air emissions from Title V sources. EPA will be reviewing some of the permits submitted to the state

Urban Bus Retrofitting Program

General Description - On April 23, 1993, EPA finalized the Urban Bus Retrofit/Rebuild Program (40 CFR 85 1401) which is intended to reduce the ambient levels of particulate matter

Urban Bus Retrofitting Program (Clean Air Act) - *continued*

(PM) in urban areas. The program is limited to 1993 and earlier model year urban buses operating in metropolitan areas with 1980 populations of 750,000 or more, whose engines are rebuilt or replaced after January 1, 1995. Operators of the affected buses are required to choose between two compliance options: Program One sets PM emissions requirements for each urban bus engine in an operator's fleet which is rebuilt or replaced, Program Two is a fleet averaging program that establishes specific annual target levels for average PM emissions from urban buses in an operator's fleet. A key aspect of the program is the certification of retrofit/rebuild equipment To meet either of the two compliance options, operators of the affected buses must use equipment which has been certified by EPA The enforcement of this program will insure that PM emissions are reduced in the cities in New England covered by the program. PM has been identified as a probable human carcinogen. High levels of exposure also cause increased frequency of bronchitis, asthma attacks and respiratory infections Environmental impacts of PM include reduced visibility and deterioration of buildings *(see also Enforcement, page 35)*

Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program

General Description - Rhode Island is targeting vehicles, the largest local source of emissions generating ozone and has designed and received legislative approval for an enhanced statewide vehicle inspection and maintenance (I&M) program. Rhode Island has begun the process of implementing the I&M program which is a decentralized testing and repair initiative combining safety and emissions inspections for automobiles every other year. The I&M program is expected to start in late 1999 To do the new emissions test, a car is rolled onto a treadmill. A hose is attached to the exhaust pipe and connected to a machine. After starting the engine, the mechanic follows instructions from the computer and accelerates the engine through various speeds. After the test is over, a printout from the computer lists the levels of hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide in the exhaust. Emission limits are geared to the specifications of each car. Cars that do not pass the test will be required to fix their cars to meet the emission limits.

Emission Reduction of Ozone Precursors

EPA continues to play a leadership role in the ozone mapping project, a project to ensure that daily ozone information is made available to weather forecasters. EPA Region I will review and take action upon RI's 15% and 9% Rate of Progress plans when it is submitted. These plans are being submitted in response to EPA partial disapproval of RI's earlier 15% plan and are expected to be submitted to EPA in early 1999. EPA will review RI's NO_x budget rule as a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision when the state submits it for implementation of the 1994 Ozone Transport Commission Memorandum of Understanding.

Air Toxics - MACT

EPA will continue to coordinate with the state on proposed MACT standard, including providing feedback to EPA Headquarters on any concerns the state has regarding a proposed MACT. EPA continues to coordinate with the state on outreach efforts for any final MACT standards.

IV. EPA Clean Air Grants - *See Grants, pages 77 & 83*

CLEAN WATER ACT

EPA RI Contact: Dave Turin, (617) 918-1598
RIDEM Contact: Alicia Good, (401) 222-3961, ext. 7214

I. General Description

The Federal Clean Water Act ("CWA"), 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq., establishes a national goal of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters in a manner that provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and recreation in and on the water. These "designated" uses are often characterized by the shorthand expression, "fishable / swimmable." The CWA also preserves the rights of states to plan the development and use (including restoration, preservation, and enhancement) of its land and water resources.

To meet these general goals, each state is required to adopt water quality standards that include these designated uses and water quality criteria that support these uses. In addition, States are required to adopt an anti-degradation policy that protect current "existing" uses whether designated or not. The CWA also institutes federal permits to control discharges of pollutants and fill material to wetlands and navigable waters, and other programs to prevent non-point (overland or sheet flow) sources of water pollution, clean up lakes, protect ground waters, and restore estuaries of national significance. Each of these programs are supported by regulations and policies developed by EPA and the states.

II. Rhode Island's Clean Water Status

In general, water quality in Rhode Island has improved significantly over the past 10 years. Investments in the control of point (end of pipe) sources of pollution has paid off, however, non-point sources of pollution (urban runoff and failing ISDS's) are contributory to water quality degradation in certain portions of the state.

Bacterial contamination has resulted in an increase of 19% of shellfish beds (5759 acres) that have been temporarily or permanently closed since 1990

Rhode Island's Clean Water Status (Clean Water Act) - *continued*

A second concern is nutrient enrichment to the leading pollution problem in lakes and ponds Excessive nutrients can lead to low dissolve oxygen conditions. Nutrients are also a concern in the Upper Narragansett Bay. About 2500 lakes, 75 river miles and 16.3 square miles of estuarine waters assessed show elevated nutrients.

A third water quality priority for the state is toxics in surface waters and sediments. To date, limited resources prevent routine monitoring for toxics in surface waters, a concern in the Upper Bay and the state's urban rivers

There is a need for additional data to obtain a complete picture of the state's surface water resources. For example, water quality of 46% of the state's river miles and 25% of the lake cares have not been assessed to determine if these waters meet the state's water quality goals For those waters assessed, 78% of the state's lakes, 52% of the rivers and 31% of the estuarine waters meet federal and state quality standards.

Specifically surface waters in Rhode Island that have been identified as not meeting standards include 27 estuarine acres (46,981 square miles) 40 river segments (217 miles), and 32 lakes (2,471 acres). Thirty-one % of shell-fishable acres are closed permanently or conditionally.

III. Programs and Initiatives to Achieve Clean Water in Rhode Island

The following programs and initiatives are directed to maintaining and improving water quality in Rhode Island. Clean Water Action Plan, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Combined Sewer Overflows, National Estuary Program, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, National Pretreatment Program, Non-Point Source Pollution Program, Storm Water / Sludge Program, Total Maximum Daily Loads, Water Quality Planning Program, Water Quality Standards and the Wetlands Program.

Clean Water Action Plan

EPA RI Contact: Al Basile, (617) 918-1599

A. General Description

The Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) as announced by President Clinton during his 1998 State of the Union Address is a major new clean water initiative designed to support the restoration and protection of the nation's water resources. The Action Plan builds on the solid foundation of existing clean water programs and proposes new actions to strengthen restoration and protection efforts In implementing the Action Plan and its 111 action items, the EPA and other federal agencies will:

Clean Water Action Plan (Clean Water Act) - *continued*

- support locally led partnerships that include a broad array of federal agencies, states, tribes, communities, businesses, and citizens to meet clean water and public health goals;
- increase financial and technical assistance to states, tribes, local governments, farmers and others;
- help states and tribes restore and sustain the health of aquatic systems on a watershed basis.

B. CWAP Implementation in Rhode Island

Major Clean Water Action Plan Activities in Rhode Island.

Unified Watershed Assessments - The State of Rhode Island in cooperation with other government agencies and the public have characterized the States five major watersheds (USGS 8-digit hydrologic units) into one of four categories:

Category I	Watersheds in need of restoration· Blackstone, Narragansett and Pawcatuck-Wood
Category II	Watersheds needing preventive action to sustain water quality. Quinebaug and Cape Cod
Category III	Watersheds with pristine/sensitive aquatic system conditions administered by federal, state, or tribal governments: No basins listed
Category IV	Watersheds with insufficient data to make an assessment: No basins listed

Watershed Restoration Priorities - The State of Rhode Island in cooperation with other government agencies and the public have compiled a listing of watershed restoration priorities. The core elements of these priorities are to identify specific Category I watersheds that are most in need of restoration, beginning 1999-2000, and to coordinate with existing restoration priorities including but not limited to those established by the Total Maximum Daily Load process (Section 303(d) CWA). The priority listing includes water bodies scheduled for TMDL development, water bodies which require additional monitoring prior to TMDL development, and targeted areas for agricultural best management practices.

Watershed Restoration Action Strategies - The State of Rhode Island in cooperation with other government agencies and the public are currently developing Watershed Restoration Action Strategies for watersheds that are most in need of restoration A core component of this process is the development of a "Total Maximum Daily Load" (TMDL). The TMDL sets the pollution reduction goal for an individual water body. Once the overall reduction goal is set, the responsibility for attaining this target is allocated among the various sources

(e g , point source dischargers and other sources of pollution, including polluted runoff). An implementation plan outlining the measures necessary to achieve the pollution reduction goal will also be generated as part of the TMDL.

The CWAP is available for viewing on the internet Visit http //www epa gov/cleanwater For a copy of the Catalog of Funding Sources for Watershed Protection (EPA 841-B-97-008) please call 1-800-426-4791 Major funding sources for watershed restoration in Rhode Island (FY99) include Section 319 CWA ($660,000) and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund ($10,800,000)

Clean Water State Revolving Fund
EPA Contact: Ralph Caruso, (617) 918-1612
RI Clean Water Finance Agency Contact: Anthony Simeone, (401) 453-4430
RIDEM Contact: John Manning, (401) 222-3961, Ext. 7254

General Description
The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program provides capitalization grants to the State in support of its State Revolving Loan Fund program. The State, in turn, provides low interest loans to its communities for water quality improvement projects. These projects include the planning, design, and construction of traditional and non-traditional pollution control projects, including onsite disposal systems.

Combined Sewer Overflows
EPA RI Contact: Dave Turin, (617) 918-1598
RIDEM Contact: Angelo Liberti, (401) 222-6820, Ext. 7225

A. General Description

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's) are overflows from sewers that carries both sewerage and storm water runoff In dry weather, the entire sewage flow goes to a wastewater treatment plant During heavy rains, the high volume of storm-water may cause sewers to overflow. When this happens, mixtures of storm water and untreated sewerage may flow into rivers, lakes, ponds, and oceans, etc Though treated somewhat differently, certain storm water discharges and combined sewer overflows (CSO's), discharges that are triggered by rainfall in communities where sanitary sewers and storm water systems are combined in single pipes, are also treated as point sources for purposes of permitting under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

B. CSO Program Implementation in Rhode Island

Rhode Island has two combined sewer overflow systems. the City of Newport and the

CSO Program Implementation in Rhode Island (Clean Water Act) - *continued*

Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) system which together serves the cities of Providence, Central Falls, Pawtucket, Lincoln, Cumberland, Johnston, North Providence, and parts of Smithfield, Cranston, and East Providence

The NBC system, with roughly 76 combined sewer overflows (CSOs) that annually discharge about 2.2 billion gallons, is the largest CSO system in Region I. On July 12, 1999, DEM approved NBC's revised concept design plan to address its CSOs The plan proposes 3 phases of construction to be implemented over approximately 20 years at a cost of approximately $389 million. Preliminary designs for Phase 1, with a cost estimate of $165 million are due April 15, 2000. Phase 1 consists of construction of 3 tunnels, capable of storing approximately 60 million gallons of overflow until it can be treated; upgrades at NBC's Bucklin Point wastewater treatment facility to increased treatment capacity; and elimination of 23 overflow locations Phases 2 and 3, which include additional sewerage system storage and treatment improvements, will be implemented or revised as appropriate to meet applicable state and federal CSO control requirements.

The Newport sewerage system contains 2 CSOs. at Washington St. and Wellington Ave While CSO controls have been in place for these overflows for a number of years, additional studies are underway regarding the need to upgrade a microstrainer device at Wellington Ave

National Estuary Program
EPA RI Contact: Margherita Pryor, (617) 918-1597
RIDEM Contact: Richard Ribb, (401) 222-7200 Ext. 7271
RIDEM Contact: Dr. Christopher Deacutis, (401) 222-7200 Ext. 7270

A. General Description

Estuaries and other coastal and marine waters are critical national resources threatened relentlessly by pollution, habitat loss, coastal development, and resource conflicts. Recognizing that traditional pollution control programs alone can't address these complex issues, Congress in 1987 established the National Estuary Program (NEP) to provide a greater focus for coastal protection and to demonstrate practical, innovative approaches for protecting estuaries and their living resources. Since then, 28 estuaries of national significance have been accepted into the program.

The NEP is unique in that substantive public involvement and consensus decision-making are built into its planning process. Its structure provides a continuing forum to equalize discussion and decision-making in water quality management and to give all stakeholders

opportunity to participate as equal partners in setting priorities, planning, and implementation. This collaborative, consensus-based approach enables local, state and federal agencies, interest group representatives, specific stakeholders, and the general public to make decisions about the future of their estuaries through the development of Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs) Each CCMP serves as a blueprint for action to restore the estuary by identifying and recommending local solutions within a watershed or other geographic framework.

B. NEP Implementation in Rhode Island - Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

Narragansett Bay was one of only four estuaries first targeted for special study by Congress in 1984, in 1987, it became one of the original NEP sites, and the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program was one of the first programs to complete and begin implementing a CCMP. Currently, the program is housed within the Department of Environmental Management, where its core mission is to offer a bay-wide, watershed-based perspective for Narragansett Bay and to serve as a center for collaborative protection and restoration efforts. This approach involves building strong working relationships with municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and other partners, as well as introducing critical planning and assessment tools to a wide community of users. Since the CCMP was completed in 1993, the program has worked with partners to address the most pressing priority needs for Narragansett Bay as a whole: identifying critical habitat and restoring/protecting valuable natural resources, understanding and managing nutrient impacts on the Bay; developing a comprehensive, bay-wide monitoring strategy; and coordinating and providing technical assistance to communities. EPA and Rhode Island provided millions of dollars to support the development of a CCMP for the Bay. Since the management plan was completed in 1993, EPA has continued to provide about $300,000 annually to support staff and to offer "seed" funding for implementation projects with other partners. The staff has successfully leveraged these funds to bring in close to a million dollars in collaborative projects.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

EPA RI Contact: David Turin, (617) 918-1598
RIDEM Contact: Angelo Liberti, (401) 222-6820, Ext. 7225
Al Basile (617) 918-1599, TMDL Coordinator
Thelma Hamilton, (617) 918-1615, Storm Water / Sludge Coordinator
Hotline Number: National Small Flows Clearinghouse: 1-800-624-8301

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (Clean Water Act) - *continued*

A. General Description

Under the CWA and its implementing regulations, it is illegal to discharge pollutants without a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System or NPDES permit. Since 1984 EPA has authorized RI to administer the NPDES program for direct or point source discharges into RI waters. Consistent with EPA administered programs, the Rhode Island Pollution Discharge Elimination System (RI PDES) imposes discharge limits based best available or practicable technology as defined in federal regulations for each type of waste discharger. For example, "technology based" standards for municipal dischargers require the removal of at least 85% of conventional pollutants and specify the concentrations of these pollutants that can be discharged Similarly metal finishers, paper manufacturers and other specific types of discharges have technology based effluent limits imposed on them Where these limits are not sufficient to meet State water quality criteria because of low dilution of the discharge or multiple sources of the same pollutant, more stringent "water quality based" limits are imposed to protect the existing and designated uses in the receiving waters Though treated somewhat differently, certain storm water discharges and combined sewer overflows ("CSOs"), discharges that are triggered by rainfall in communities where sanitary sewers and storm water systems are combined in single pipes, are also treated as point sources for purposes of permitting under NPDES.

B. NPDES Implementation in Rhode Island

Since 1984 EPA has authorized RI to administer the NPDES program for direct or point source discharges into RI waters. Consistent with EPA administered programs, the RI PDES imposes discharge limits based best available or practicable technology as defined in federal regulations for each type of waste discharger. For example, "technology based" standards for municipal dischargers require the removal of at least 85% of conventional pollutants and specify the concentrations of these pollutants that can be discharged. Similarly, metal finishers, paper manufacturers and other specific types of discharges have technology based effluent limits imposed on them Where these limits are not sufficient to meet State water quality criteria because of low dilution of the discharge or multiple sources of the same pollutant, more stringent "water quality based" limits are imposed to protect the existing and designated uses in the receiving waters

National Pretreatment Program

EPA Contact: Jay Pimpare, (617) 918-1531

RIDEM Contact: Bob DiSaia, (401) 222-6519, x7228

A. General Description

The National Pretreatment Program was established by Congress to control discharges of

non-domestic wastes (e.g., industrial) to sewage treatment plants, commonly referred to as Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) Industrial processes use and generate toxic and hazardous pollutants which are discharged to POTWs. While sewage treatment plants are designed to treat the conventional pollutants that are contained in sanitary wastewater discharged by homes, offices, and stores, POTWs are not generally designed to treat toxic metals and organic pollutants that are often discharged by industries into the sewer system. "Pretreatment" is therefore the treatment of industrial wastewater at the industrial facility itself before the wastewater is discharged into a local sewer system.

As established under the Clean Water Act, the National Pretreatment Program is designed to protect POTWs, its workers, and the environment from the detrimental impacts that may occur when toxic and sometimes concentrated conventional pollutants are discharged into sewer systems. This protection is achieved by regulating the non-domestic users of POTWs, usually called *industrial users (IUs)* or *indirect dischargers*, since the industrial waste stream flows first into public sewer systems and is then later discharged to waters of the United States by the POTW.

The National Pretreatment Program requires the cooperation of Federal, State, and Local governments to effectively control the discharges of industrial users. The government entity that primarily implements pretreatment controls on industrial dischargers is usually the local municipality through its approved pretreatment program Any POTW with a wastewater design flow of greater than 5 MGD, or that receives wastewater from non-domestic sources which may pass through or interfere with the POTW's operations is required to establish a Pretreatment Program. Therefore, the municipality, through its POTW, has the primary responsibility to control the industrial wastes that are entering its sewer system. EPA in turn oversees the implementation of the local pretreatment program through the performance of Pretreatment Compliance Inspections and Pretreatment Program Audits.

B. Pretreatment Program Implementation In Rhode Island

The State of Rhode Island has received delegation from EPA to oversee the implementations of the local pretreatment program. Local pretreatment programs required to submit documents to EPA for approval/denial in accordance with the National Pretreatment Program, instead submit all documents to the State. There are currently 15 approved pretreatment programs consisting of 291 *Significant Industrial Users* (SIUs) The list below shows the programs and indicates the current number of SIU's the POTW regulates.

POTW:#SIU

Bristol: 9	NBC-Field's Point: 92	Warren: 3
Cranston. 24	Newport: 0	Warwick: 9

National Pretreatment Program (Clean Water Act) - *continued*

East Greenwich: 2	RIEDC: 8	West Warwick 13
East Providence: 10	Smithfield: 10	Westerly: 3
NBC-Bucklin Point: 60	South Kingstown. 5	Woonsocket. 23

Non-Point Source Pollution Program
EPA RI Contact: Margherita Pryor, (617) 918-1597
RIDEM Contact: Jim Riordan, (401) 222-3434 ext. 4421

A. General Description

Although the United States has made significant progress during the last 25 years in controlling pollution from point sources of industries and sewage treatment plants, non-point source pollution (NPS) has now become the main reason that approximately 40% of surveyed rivers, lakes, and estuaries are not clean enough to meet basic uses such as fishing and swimming. NPS pollution occurs when rainfall, snow melt, or irrigation runs over land or through the ground, picks up pollutants, and deposits them into rivers, lakes, and coastal waters or introduces them into groundwater. NPS pollution also includes harmful physical changes to stream channels and their associated aquatic habitats. The most common NPS pollutants are pathogens (bacteria/viruses) from failing septic systems and soils, contaminants, and nutrients that storm water runoff picks up as it flows overland to rivers and streams from agricultural land and other treated open spaces, urban and suburban development, marinas, construction sites, roads, and bridges Typical NPS contaminants include pesticides, salts, oil, grease, toxic chemicals, and heavy metals

Recognizing that non-point source pollution was becoming the nation's largest source of water quality problems, Congress in 1987 established the national non-point source program in the Clean Water Act amendments of that year. Under Section 319 of the Act, states, territories, and tribes with approved programs apply for and receive grants from EPA to implement non-point source pollution controls. A nation-wide formula is applied to determine how much funding each state or tribe will receive each year. Also, each state or tribe is required to provide a 40% non-federal dollar match to support the program.

B. NPS Program Implementation in Rhode Island

Rhode Island's NPS program is housed in the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM). Under Section 319, each state must have an approved non-point source management plan in place in order to remain eligible for federal non-point source grants. Rhode Island's plan was updated, revised, and approved in 1995, and is now incorporated in the State Guide Plan. Primary pollutant sources addressed in the plan

NPS Program Implementation in Rhode Island (Clean Water Act) - *continued*

include failing septic systems; residential and commercial fertilizer application; agricultural operations, including forestry; urban and suburban storm water runoff; underground discharges, including those from storage tanks; marinas; landfills and surface mining activities; and destruction of riparian habitat.

Rhode Island recently adopted a new approach for selecting NPS projects by soliciting proposals for 319 grants from a broad range of potential applicants, including municipalities, towns, conservation districts and cooperative extension services, watershed associations, land trusts, planning groups, university departments, secondary schools, and other nonprofit organizations. The intent is to use NPS funds more quickly and effectively for remediation and restoration projects in three primary areas: onsite wastewater management; strategies for watershed restoration; and implementation of watershed restoration strategies

The annual federal 319 grant to Rhode Island typically amounts to more than $600,000. Thanks to substantial increases provided through the federal Clean Water Action Plan *(see discussion of CWAP, page, 16)* almost $1 million will be available in 1999 for projects to prevent, control, or reduce NPS pollution or to restore watersheds and/or bodies of water harmed or endangered by such pollution.

Storm Water / Sludge Program
EPA Contact: Thelma Hamilton, (617) 918-1615,
RIDEM Contact: Angelo Liberti, (401) 222-6519, Ext. 7225

A. General Description

The storm water management program was established under the authority of Section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act The program is made up of two phases. Phase I was established in 1990 It regulates large and medium municipal separate storm sewer systems, storm water discharges associated with industrial activity; storm water discharges identified as cause violations to water quality; and storm water discharges which have established effluent limitations contained in a permit issued prior to 1987. All discharges subject to the Phase I program are regulated with an NPDES permit, either a general permit or an individual permit The Phase II program will be published final in October 1999 Phase II will cover small municipal separate storm sewer systems; construction projects down to one acre, and established a no exposure incentive for Phase I industries. The overall objective of the storm water program is to eliminate / minimize the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States from storm water run off.

Storm Water / Sludge Program (Clean Water Act) - *continued*

B. Storm Water Program Implementation in Rhode Island

The storm water program is part of an NPDES permit program. The state of Rhode Island has a delegated NPDES program which includes the storm water program. The state has developed general permits to address the types of discharges which are subject to the program. Once Phase II is final, the state will be required to modify their current program to address the additional discharges covered by the Phase II program. The program modification should be completed by October 2001. *(see also Enforcement, page 36)*

Total Maximum Daily Loads

EPA RI Contact: Al Basile, (617) 918-1599
RIDEM Contact: Wayne Jenkins, (401) 222-6820, Ext. 7272

A. General Description

In accordance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, the States are required to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for all water bodies that are not meeting water quality standards. A TMDL establishes the maximum amount of a pollutant that may be introduced into a water body while still ensuring attainment and maintenance of water quality standards. A TMDL must also specify load allocations among both point and non-point sources of pollution. This process is intended to protect all waters from excessive pollutant loading, regardless of sources. The process of establishing TMDLs, as outlined in section 303(d) is an integral part of the Clean Water Act's surface water quality management requirements. Specifically, States are required to:

1. develop lists of all waters where existing pollution controls for point and non-point sources are not or are not expected to meet all applicable water quality standards, and for which TMDLs are unestablished;
2. prioritize and set schedules for establishing TMDLs for listed waters; and
3 establish TMDLs for all listed waters.

States have the primary responsibility for implementing the TMDL process. EPA reviews and approves both the States prioritized list of waters needing TMDLs (303(d) list) and the established TMDLs Public participation is encouraged throughout the TMDL process. The public must be given an opportunity to review and comment on the States 303(d) list and the TMDLs.

B. TMDL Program Implementation in Rhode Island

During 1998, the State of Rhode Island finalized its list of impaired waters (303(d)). In developing this list, the State used all existing and readily available information pertaining to the condition of the State's surface waters This data was generated by monitoring

programs carried out by government agencies, universities, and volunteer monitoring groups. Each water body on the 303(d) list has been given a priority ranking and a time schedule for TMDL development. Presently, Rhode Island, other government agencies, and the public are in the process of developing TMDLs for a number of impaired waters.

Water Quality Grants Program

In carrying out the provisions of the Clean Water Act as stated in §104, the Regional Administrator is authorized to make grants to state water pollution control agencies, interstate agencies, other public or non- profit private agencies, institutions, organizations, and individuals for purposes of promoting the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution. Water quality grants are used to support special projects and demonstrations which promote a holistic water resource management approach The Watershed Protection Approach to environmental improvement continue to be a priority for EPA - New England. §104(b(3) water quality funds are to be provided for innovative demonstration projects such as those related to urban wet weather discharges on a watershed basis that promote the development or implementation of statewide watershed approaches in the NPDES program (including storm water, CSOs, SSO, pretreatment and bio-solids programs) or other innovative voluntary approaches for meeting program goals and alternative ways to measure the effectiveness of the point source program

Water Quality Planning Program

EPA RI Contact: Dave Turin, (617) 918-1598

RIDEM Contact: Connie Carey, (401) 222-3961, Ext. 7239

A. General Description

RIDEM's Water Quality Planning Program supports a diverse array of the State's water quality management activities. These include development of its water quality standards (see "CWA," above); support for CWA §401 water quality certification to assure consistency of federal permitting and licensing decisions with State water quality standards; administering and planning sampling programs; preparing water quality assessments, such as its 305(b) report on the state of the State's water and its 303(d) list, a compilation of waters that will not meet water quality standards without the imposition of special control measures (see "NPDES," above), and waste- load allocations and TMDLs ("Total Maximum Daily Loads"), the studies that the State conducts to identify additional controls that will be necessary to bring 303(d) listed waters into compliance with water quality standards. Together, these efforts direct the State water quality programs and help assure progress achieving the goals and objectives of the CWA.

Water Quality Planning Program (Clean Water Act) - *continued*

B. Water Quality Planning Implementation in Rhode Island

RI's water quality planning staff have the primary responsibility of assuring that State water quality standards are revised on a regular basis and kept consistent with federal regulations. RI's water quality program also includes ongoing data-gathering to support development of the State's 305(b) Report and the site-specific data necessary to develop TMDLs for waters listed on the State's 303(d) list of waters that don't meet applicable water quality standards.

Water Quality Standards

EPA RI Contact: Dave Turin, (617) 918-1598
RIDEM Contact: Connie Carey, (401) 222-3961, Ext. 7239

A. General Description

To meet the general goals of the Clean Water Act (see Clean Water Act, above), each state is required to adopt water quality standards (WQS) that must include 3 basic elements: 1) designated uses consistent with supporting the "fishable/swimmable use goals of the CWA, 2) numeric and narrative water quality criteria that support these uses; and, 3) an "anti-degradation" policy to maintain current existing uses whether they are designated or not The CWA requires that standards be reviewed at least every three years. Revised standards must be submitted to the EPA for approval.

B. Water Quality Standards Implementation in Rhode Island

RI's current WQS were adopted following a lengthy revision process on 8/6/97 and amended 3/25/99 As the state's primary tool for implementing the goals of the CWA, all permits, licenses and water quality certifications issued by the State should be consistent with the State WQSs

Wetlands Program

EPA RI Contact: Melvin Peter Holmes, (617) 918-1397
RIDEM General Program Contact: Carol Murphy, (401) 222-4700, Ext. 7208
RIDEM Permitting Contact: Marty Wencek, (401) 222-6820, Ext. 7403

A. General Description

Increasing urbanization of landscape poses a cumulative threat to the values and functions of wetlands. Additionally, many wetland systems have been degraded by past activities including un-permitted alterations or failure to adhere to permit conditions. New strategies are needed to facilitate wetland restoration by reducing cumulative small losses, losses due to large public projects, reduce non-compliance and promote

voluntary action to better protect vital wetland resources. Rhode Island has been among the nation's leaders in adopting wetland protection laws, and in recent years, the state has reduced the authorized losses of wetlands to a minimum. RIDEM has regulatory jurisdiction over freshwater wetlands while the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) had jurisdiction over coastal wetlands.

B. Wetland Program Implementation in Rhode Island

Permit Review

It is expected that over the next year EPA will review more than 200 wetlands permits, will attend more than 50 site visits, and will submit numerous comments to the Army Corps of Engineers in accordance with the 404 Federal Regulations. Federal resource agencies helped develop and implement a state wide Programmatic General Permit (PGP) program in the State of Rhode Island. The intent of the PGP was to replaced the environmentally destructive nationwide permit program with a more rational approach. The intent of the PGP is to improve the federal wetland program by simplifying some of the program's complexity while providing for more effective resource protection. EPA will continue to encourage early coordination efforts with other federal agencies on permit projects in order to streamline the permit evaluation process, while pursuing effective environmental protection of wetlands and other aquatic resources.

Enforcement Support

Information on RI wetland violations will be documented and forwarded to the Army Corps of Engineers, RIDEM and CRMC. Other routine activities that will be conducted by EPA include: responding to information requests, site visits, mailing of"intend to fill" letters, on-site verbal requests asking persons filling or dredging wetlands without a federal permit to cease and desist their work until they contact the Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to enforcement support, wetlands educational outreach will continue to be incorporated with enforcement support activities Wetlands brochures, wetland hotline phone numbers, suggestions of local resources, and verbal descriptive wetlands information will be offered to the public whenever possible and whenever appropriate.

Wetland Restoration / Mitigation

The RIDEM has been working to promote wetland protection and habitat restoration initiatives. The state has been making an effort to enhance wetland protection programs to achieve consistency with several federal core program elements and is currently proposing a series of wetland bills to the state legislature for improved state wetland protection to foster habitat restoration activities in the coastal and inland environments. The state has mapped critical coastal habitats in the coastal ponds region, collaborated with the habitat

Wetlands Program (Clean Water Act) - *continued*

restoration advisory committee and continues salt marsh restoration initiatives at sites identified in the Narraganset Bay Estuary program.

Education and Outreach

EPA will focus on important wetland resources in Rhode Island with an upcoming "Vernal Pool" Recognition and Awareness Initiative.

Wetland Grants

EPA administers a wetland grant program which has provided financial assistance to the State of Rhode Island, tribal and local governments in their wetlands protection, management and restoration efforts. Grant funds have been used to develop new wetland programs or refine existing wetland programs. Wetland grant funds are directed toward activities that result in demonstratable progress in improving wetland programs. The goal

of the grant program is to ensure that Rhode Island's important wetland resources will be identified and protected in the future. The grant program offers an opportunity for communities to assess and identify different scenarios for the protection of wetland resources as they update local comprehensive plans. For EPA it is an opportunity to implement elements of our "Smart Growth Action Plan". The plan is designed to achieve sustainable economic development, a healthy environment , and a high quality of life for New Englanders. The wetlands grants are a tool to develop strategies to protect wetland resources and to implement local measures to direct development activity away from these important local resources. In 1999 EPA made $175,000 directly available to the State, local governments, and tribes for wetland protection. State/tribal agencies, interstate /intertribal entities and association, and local governmental agencies and associations are eligible to receive grant funds Wetland related agencies include, but are not limited to water quality agencies. planning offices/commissions; departments of transportation, fish and wildlife or natural resources, agriculture, and forestry; coastal zone management agencies, park and recreation agencies; non-point source or storm water agencies, and other state , local government wetland related agencies. Local government entities include, but are not limited to city , and regional government agencies including the Rhode Island State conservation Districts and the University of Rhode Island. All wetland grant funds that EPA awards is through a competitive process. *(see also Enforcement page 36)*

IV. EPA Clean Water Act Grants

See Grants, pages 77 and 83

COASTAL ZONE ACT REAUTHORIZATION AMENDMENTS

EPA RI Contact: Margherita Pryor, (617) 918-1597
RIDEM Contact: Jim Riordan, (401) 222-391, Ext. 4421
Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council Contact: Laura Miguel, (401) 222-2476

I. General Description

Non-point source pollution (NPS) is a significant portion of the threats to coastal waters. It occurs when rainfall, snow melt, or irrigation runs over land or through the ground, picks up pollutants, and deposits them into rivers, lakes, and coastal waters or introduces them into groundwater. NPS pollution also includes harmful physical changes to stream channels and their associated aquatic habitats The most common NPS pollutants are pathogens (bacteria/viruses) from failing septic systems and soils, contaminants, and nutrients that storm water runoff picks up as it flows overland to rivers and streams from agricultural land and other treated open spaces, urban and suburban development, marinas, construction sites, roads, and bridges Typical NPS contaminants include pesticides, salts, oil, grease, toxic chemicals, and heavy metals.

In 1990, Congress passed the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) to tackle the NPS pollution problem in coastal waters Part of these amendments was a new section (Section 6217) requiring states and territories with approved Coastal Zone Management (CZM) programs to develop *Coastal Non-point Pollution Control Programs* These programs must be jointly approved by EPA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The intent is to build on existing Clean Water Act section 319 non-point source management programs and the coastal zone management programs approved under section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act. Section 6217 for the first time has brought together the land use management expertise of state coastal zone management agencies and the water quality expertise of the state 319 agencies to enhance efforts to manage activities and land uses that degrade coastal waters and habitats.

II. CZARA Program Status

In 1995, Rhode Island submitted its coastal non-point program to EPA and NOAA for joint review and approval. The program was conditionally approved in 1997 and is expected to be fully approved by December 1999. Full implementation of management measures is understood to be along-term process, taking as long as 15 years However, Rhode Island must submit a 5-year plan describing the first phase of activities and listing interim milestones and benchmarks to be achieved by 2003

III. Programs and Initiatives

Under Section 6217, Rhode Island must describe how and what kinds of non-point source pollution controls, called management measures, it will implement to address five major

Programs and Initiatives (Coastal Zone Management Act) - *continued*

categories of non-point pollution: agriculture, forestry, urban (including new development, septic tanks, roads, bridges, and highways), marinas and recreational boating, and hydro modification. The state must also describe how it will promote the protection and restoration of wetlands and riparian areas as treatment systems to control pollution arising from the five major NPS categories listed above. If these measures do not achieve the expected improvements within a certain period of time, the state must undertake additional measures to address remaining water quality problems. Although most of the measures rely on implementation through state-wide programs, local governments and communities also play an important role The state is expected to provide substantial technical assistance to them, as well as to ensure meaningful opportunities for public participation throughout the process

IV. CZARA Grants

In addition to working with the state to provide technical assistance to local communities, the federal government also provides funding to help implement the coastal non-point program. This funding comes as part of the overall annual grants to the state under EPA's 319 program and NOAA's CZM program. The annual federal 319 grant to Rhode Island typically amounts to more than $600,000 Funding from NOAA to Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Management Council to implement the state's overall coastal zone management program usually amounts to between $800,000 and $900,000 annually, of which about $60,000 is earmarked specifically to implement Section 6217 Thanks to substantial increases provided through the federal Clean Water Action Plan *(see discussion of CWAP, page, 16)* almost $1 million will be available in 1999 for projects to prevent, control, or reduce non-point source pollution or to restore watersheds and/or bodies of water harmed or endangered by such pollution.

COMMUNITY BASED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

EPA Contacts: Deborah Harstedt, (617) 918-1085

General Description

Community-based environmental protection (CBEP) is EPA's term for a holistic and collaborative approach to environmental protection. CBEP brings together public and private stakeholders within a place or community to identify environmental concerns, set priorities, and implement comprehensive solutions Examples of community based projects in Rhode Island are.

1. **Narragansett Bay Estuary Program** - *see Clean Water Act, page 20*
2. **Pawcatuck Watershed Partnership** - *see N E Federal Partners..., page 47*
3. **Urban Rivers Initiative** - *see page 74*

EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT

EPA Contacts:Dwight Peavey (617) 918-1829, Len Wallace (617) 918-1835, Ray DiNardo, (617) 918-1804

RI Contacts:

EPCRA, Section 313, TRI: Karen Slattery, RI DEM, (401) 222-2808, Ext. 7030

EPCRA,Section 311&312, Tier 2 Reporting: Patrice Cavaretta, RI Dept of Labor & Training, (401) 457-1829

EPCRA, Section 302, Emergency Planning: John Aucott, RI SERC, Governor's Office of Emergency Management, (401) 946-9996

EPA EPCRA Hotline: (800) 424-9346, TDD (800) 553-7672 (Monday-Friday, 9am - 6pm EST)

General Description

Emergency Planning and Community-Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), also know as SARA Title III, was enacted in 1986 and designed to promote emergency planning and preparedness at both the state and local level It provides citizens, local government and local responders with information about the potential hazards in their community EPCRA requires the use of emergency planning and designates state and local government as recipient of information regarding certain chemicals used in the community. EPCRA has four major components:

1. Emergency Planning (Sections 301-303)
2 Emergency Release Notification (Section 304)
3. Community Right-To-Know Reporting (Sections 311-312)
4. Toxic Release Inventory Reporting (Section 313)

The goal of the EPCRA team is to assist state and local government to reduce the threat of chemical accidents, prevent pollution, and to increase public awareness of hazardous chemicals that are stored and released in their communities To achieve this, the team works with a wide range of state and local agencies as well as industry, environmental groups and the public. The team has a wide range of resources available to them including the following·

The Toxic Release Inventory (TRI): a computerized data base on the releases and transfer of toxic chemicals from manufacturing facilities On Earth Day 97, President Clinton announced the addition of hundreds of industrial facilities to the list of those that must report toxic releases. Seven industry sectors will be reporting for 1998 by July 1, 1999 including electric utilities, coal and metals mining and commercial hazardous waste treatment

Tier 2 is a free software program that allows a facility to electronically report its yearly EPCRA Section 311 &312 Chemical Inventory reports. The EPCRA team provides training and technical assistance for the Tier 2 software. The EPCRA Team maintains a New England database of Tier 2 reports.

Emergency Planning And Community Right-To-Know Act - *continued*

CAMEO, Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations, is a software system for EPCRA planning, responding, and mitigation of chemical accidents CAMEO has twelve modules and two self-contained programs of which one is MARPLOT, an electronic geographic mapping software tool. The EPCRA Teams provides training and technical assistance for CAMEO.
The "One Plan", also know as Integrated Contingency Planning (ICP), allows a facility to comply multiple federal planning requirements by consolidating them into one functional emergency response plan. The EPCRA Team provides training, technical assistance and review of "One Plans"
For more detailed information and Internet access to all aspects of EPCRA and EPCRA related tools, you can access the EPCRA Team at http //www epa gov/regional/steward/emerplan/

ENERGYSTAR / GREENLIGHTS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS & U.S. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN VOLUNTARY, MONEY-SAVING, ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS THAT REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS AND CONVENTIONAL, REGULATED AIR EMISSIONS
EPA Region I Contact: Norman Willard (617) 918-1812
Toll free number: 1-888-STARYES / Website: www.epa.gov/energystar

EnergyStar Buildings/Green Lights Partnership Programs
These programs encourage municipalities, states, companies, business and trade groups, hospitals, utilities, schools, not-for-profit and other organizations to reduce energy use, save money, and prevent pollution through available, off-the-shelf energy efficient technologies, products, equipment and services. EPA provides free, extensive technical support, planning, costing and savings calculating software products, procurement and purchasing tool kits, training workshops, financing advice, an extensive on-line database of thousands of EnergyStar conforming energy efficient products and equipment, and valuable public recognition for participants. Participants, now numbering in the thousands, through investments in energy efficiency, achieve savings of 30-60% and earn internal rates of return of 22% at a minimum and often higher, and are saving billions of dollars every year. In addition to end users, EPA works with manufacturers to produce all kinds of more energy efficient products that can earn and bear the EnergyStar logo Individual buildings can earn an EnergyStar Label for Buildings. EnergyStar Homes and a wide range of EnergyStar home products and equipment that helps individuals reduce energy costs. The EnergyStar Small Business program provides free technical assistance and support to small business and organizations - those having 100,000 or less square footage facilities - Participants learn about determining their energy needs, ways to purchase energy efficient products and services that save money, reduce energy use and help the environment. Case studies, an awards program, an interactive website, and networking are features of this program.

Climate Wise Program
EPA Region I contact: Norman Willard (617) 918-1812
Toll free number: 1-800-459-WISE
Website: epa.gov/climatewise

This program provides free technical assistance service for companies to create their own menu own cost-saving action plan, obtain free energy audits and technical support, a software toolkit for estimating energy savings, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and planning projects. Companies set their own energy reduction goals, through measures that they choose to save money, reduce greenhouse gas and conventional air emissions, conserve water, network with other business participants, and receive public recognition *Climate Wise* also offers a Business-to-Business Program, a Peer Exchange Program and on-going technology and measure-oriented technical workshops.

Cities for Climate Protection Campaign
EPA Region I contact: Norman Willard (617) 918-1812
ICLEI/Cities for Climate Protection Campaign Contact: Nancy Skinner (510) 540-8843
websites: www.iclei.org/us and www.epa.gov/globalwarming
This campaign receives EPA and foundation support in encouraging local governments and regional organizations think globally and act locally. CCP helps local governments implement policies and measures that reduce global warming pollution, improve air quality and enhance communities. Participating cities and counties assesses their own energy use and develop action plans to reduce community-wide emissions and save money. CCP governments find that increasing energy efficiency and decreasing fossil fuel consumption to be cost effective, good sense strategies that tackle a host of other local problems, enhance community quality of life and sustainability. The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) is the international organization that administers the program ICLEI offers software and other tools to make the tasks easy, along with training workshops, information, grant funding and other assistance.

ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE PROGRAM
EPA Enforcement Contact: Sam Silverman, Co-Manager (617) 918-1731
EPA Enforcement Contact: Ken Moraff, Co-Manager, (617) 918-1721
EPA Industrial Sector Contact: Roy Crystal (617) 918-1745
Tips and Complaints Hotline: 1-888-372-7341

General Description
EPA's enforcement program emphasizes strategic targeting of inspection and enforcement activities to achieve environmental results. The program focuses resources on industrial sectors with non-

compliance problems, urban areas whose populations face environmental and public health risks, and statute specific priorities to support EPA's national compliance agenda. EPA's compliance efforts in New England and particularly in Rhode Island address a wide range of environmental problems. An exhaustive list is obviously beyond the scope of this summary, but some of our most significant areas of concern in 1999 include:

Chemical Emergency Preparedness: EPA-New England has created a team approach to evaluate the spill and emergency hazard potential of facilities. Our first priority is preventing hazards by requiring that all at-risk facilities have risk management plans, and are prepared to respond to chemical accidents. We will also invest in building state capacity to deal with these issues.

Clean Air Act Compliance: Because everyone must breathe the same air, EPA-New England has targeted compliance with the Clean Air Act to safeguard the health of our citizens Efforts in Rhode Island include both a focus on heavily polluted older urban and industrial sites as well as preventing currently clean areas from becoming environmentally degraded.

Climate Change: The region is completing a global climate change agenda which includes the greening of New England federal facilities, outreach and education for the public, and collaboration with New England states and businesses.

CSOs/SSOs: Urban wet weather issues are a top priority for EPA-New England. Both "combined sewer overflows" (CSOs-overflows from systems designed to convey both sanitary sewage and storm water) and "sanitary sewer overflows" (SSOs-overflows from systems designed to convey only sanitary sewage) cause severe environmental problems. In cooperation with the State of Rhode Island, we are aggressively pursuing the implementation of CSO control projects We are also investigating the extent of the SSO problem, and will work with the State and with watershed associations to identify potential SSOs for enforcement actions

Drinking Water: Under the drinking water program, our priorities for 1998 and 1999 are drinking water disinfection, including enforcement of the Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Total Coliform rule, and compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. Because lead exposure is a national and regional priority, enforcement of this rule is based on risk to sensitive populations.

Hazardous Waste: Risks caused by improper handing of hazardous waste, especially in the Woonasquatucket River, is a high priority, as is compliance by public agencies, waste generators and transportation facilities. Air emissions or organic compounds and risks in urban/environmental justice areas are also key initiatives.

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Program - *continued*

Mercury Reduction in Hospitals: Mercury is a toxic and persistent pollutant that is recently receiving much attention. EPA-New England has challenged New England medical facilities to lead the nation in eliminating mercury and/or mercury-containing waste by 2003 EPA is partnering with facilities that voluntarily reduce mercury under this program

Sprawl: Wise steps to control urban sprawl is another Regional priority, involving both our enforcement and compliance assistance programs. This includes encouraging enforcement settlements that contain environmental projects that help to limit or counteract the effects of sprawl. To do this, we are developing partnerships with such organizations as The Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Land, and the Audubon Society to identify wetlands, habitats, and other areas needing remediation and/or protection from over-development. We are also integrating sprawl issues into our efforts to reduce the use of greenhouse gases in local communities (land use and transportation planning are relevant to both issues).

Storm Water: In targeting areas that we believe cause serious environmental impacts, storm water enforcement is a top priority for 1999. We are complementing this with compliance assistance and pollution prevention activities

Urban Bus Initiative: Large cities, such as Providence, must have diesel bus fleets retrofitted with emissions control equipment to reduce PM and Nitrogen Oxides EPA New England will be targeting urban areas to evaluate compliance with these emissions control requirements.

Urban Environmental Issues: In 1999, the Office of Environmental Stewardship's Urban Team (a multi-media team which uses both enforcement and compliance assistance tools) is focusing on environmental problems in Providence and two other urban areas in New England. Activities continued from 1998 include prevention and remediation of accidental releases, a focus on the auto repair sector, and enforcement of environmental laws in the fish processing industry. New priorities for 1999 include initiatives designed to protect the Woonasquatucket watershed and enforcement of leaking underground tanks.

Wetlands: Stemming the loss of New England's wetlands is a key environmental priority We receive many tips and complaints from the public and from other governmental agencies, and many of these lead to enforcement cases designed to restore filled wetlands or mitigate the environmental harm caused by wetlands violations. We are also working to identify what causes significant wetland losses, so that we can develop strategic enforcement and compliance assistance approaches.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAM

EPA Contact: Kristen Conroy, (617) 918-1069

General Description

The FY98 Environmental Education Grants Program's (EEG) applications were listed in the Federal Register in August of 1997 due in November 1997 About half of the grant dollars awarded to the region will be $5,000 or less. Individual grants do not exceed $25,000. The total for all of New England was $200,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANTS PROGRAM, EJ SMALL GRANTS, EJ POLLUTION PREVENTION GRANTS AND STATE AND TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANTS

EPA EJ Grants Program Manager: Ronnie Harrington (617) 918-1703
EPA EJ Coordinator: Dr. Ngozi Oleru (617) 918-1120
EPA EJ Hotline: (800) 962-6215

A. General Description

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its 1992 report, Environmental Equity: Reducing Risk for all Communities, found that people of color and low income communities experience higher exposure to toxic pollutants than the general public The Environmental Justice movement (EJ) has focused attention on the need to more actively ensure equitable environmental protection for all, and to empower those most often disenfranchised from the decision making process - the poor and people of color. Pollution prevention (P2) can play a central role in reducing environmental risks while promoting public involvement and environmental benefits

The EJ Pollution Prevention Grants and EJ Small Grants request for proposals are announced in the Federal Register and placed on the EPA website. The Region conducts a mass mailing and provides notice of the opportunity to apply for grant dollars to community based grassroots organizations, tribes, schools and other non profit organizations. The Region also conducts workshops and conference calls to inform the community of application requirements and deadlines. The State and Tribal Environmental Justice Program request for proposals is also published in the Federal Register and each of the States and Tribes in this Region are provided a copy of the guidance by EPA New England and encouraged to apply for grant funding.

B. Types of EJ Grants

At present, there are three (3) grant programs being administered in Region I.

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program (EJSG)

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice began a small grants program for funding of environmental justice projects in FY '94. This year, $100,000 is available to each Region to support Superfund related projects. Grantees can receive up to $20,000 in EJSG funding. An

Environmental Justice Grants Programs - *continued*

additional $100,000 is available for funding non-superfund related projects with $40,000 specifically allocated to public health projects. The non-superfund grantees can receive up to $15,000 The application deadline for FY '99 funding was March 8, 1999.

Environmental Justice Through Pollution Prevention Grants Program (EJP2)
The EJP2 Program receives its funding from the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (OPPTS) which established the EJP2 Program in FY '95. Grantees in this program can receive up to $100,000. The Agency strongly encourages cooperative efforts between communities, business, industry, and government to address common pollution prevention goals. For FY '99 approximately $750,000 is available for funding. The application deadline for FY '99 funding is August 12, 1999

State & Tribal Environmental Justice (STEJ) Grants Program
Funding for this program was established in FY '98 from EPA's Office of Environmental Justice Grantees can receive up to $100,000 in STEJ funding to address environmental justice issues. This is a competitive process open to States and Federally recognized tribes. $500,000 is available nationally for FY '99. The application deadline for FY '99 was February 26, 1999.

The purpose of these programs is to provide financial assistance to tribal communities, schools, governments, community-based organizations and other nonprofit organizations to identify and assess pollution sources as well as to devise strategies for improvements to the environment through environmental awareness efforts and training programs. Activities funded to date by the EJSG and EJP2 programs include childhood lead poisoning prevention, management of pediatric asthma, water quality and pesticide issues in rural communities, fish contamination in subsistence populations, radon testing in low income homes, pollution prevention demonstration projects at local businesses and youth education programs including urban gardening. Projects funded under the STEJ program have been for similar activities; however on a broader scale.

FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE, AND RODENTICIDE ACT

EPA FIFRA Contact: Marv Rosenstein, (617) 918-1631
EPA C/T, GW, IPM, FQPA Contact: Rob Koethe, (617) 918-1634
EPA Grants, WP, Registration Contact: Andy Triolo, (617) 918-1634
EPA Enforcement, Imports, Section 7 Reporting Contact: Wayne Toland, (617) 918-1852
RI DEM Contact: Elizabeth Lopes-Duguay, (401) 222-2781, ext. 4510
National Pesticide Telecommunication Network: 1-800-858-7378

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act - *continued*

I. General Description

The two major statutes under which EPA regulates pesticides are the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), both of which were amended in August, 1996 by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). Under FIFRA, EPA regulates the production, sale, distribution and use of all pesticide products in the United States FIFRA requires EPA to register pesticides for use in the United States and prescribes labeling and other regulatory requirements to prevent unreasonable adverse effects on human health or the environment. Under FFDCA, EPA establishes tolerances (maximum legally permissible levels) for pesticide residues in food. FQPA, which Congress unanimously passed in 1996, requires the EPA to consider new factors when it makes pesticide regulatory decisions and represents landmark pesticide food safety legislation.

II. FIFRA Status in Rhode Island

There are approximately 400 farms in RI which produce a variety of crops The Division of Agriculture licenses approximately 1500 pesticide applicators. It is expected that improved pest management practices together with the use of less risky pesticides will provide better protections to food and minimize the risk to public health and the environment.

III. FIFRA Programs and Initiatives in Rhode Island

Pesticide Program

Most FIFRA-related activities (e g., pesticide enforcement, certification of restricted use pesticides applicators) have been delegated to the states through cooperative agreements with the EPA States cannot change the pesticide label but they may be more restrictive than EPA in their pesticide regulations. The goal of the Rhode Island pesticide program is to prevent adverse effects on human health and the environment by regulating the use, application, distribution, sale, labeling, storage, transportation and disposal of pesticides.

The major priority of the State's pesticide program is to train and certify both commercial and private applicators of restricted-use pesticides and to enforce use provisions of both the State and Federal pesticide laws. The State's pesticide program also educates homeowners on proper pesticide use and the potential risks to human health and the environment from the misuse of pesticides Improper pesticide application can result in contamination of water resources, crops, and food supply, and injury to agricultural workers, applicators or residents

IV. EPA FIFRA Grants

See Grants, pages 77 & 83

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS ACT (GPRA)

EPA Contact: Margherita Pryor, (617) 918-1596

General Description

The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) for the first time sets up a framework to hold government agencies accountable not only for its actions (was money spent properly, were projects completed on schedule), but also for the *outcomes* of its actions (what results did programs achieve, did they meet their goals). This approach asks government to show citizens what products, services, or conditions they are getting from the use of public funds; how the use of public funds benefits their lives or addresses issues they care about; and how efficiently and effectively the funds were used. To carry out this radical change in the way programs are managed, GPRA requires each federal agency to:

- ❑ define long-term general goals (i.e., state basic expectations about what it wants to achieve),
- ❑ set specific annual performance measures (i.e., targets that provide measurable, tangible levels of accomplishment against which the public can assess an agency's performance); and
- ❑ report annually on performance against the performance goals.

Under GPRA, EPA has established ten long-term goals for environmental and human health.

1. clean air;
2 clean and safe water;
3 safe food;
4. preventing pollution and reducing risk in communities, homes, workplaces, and ecosystems,
5. better waste management, restoration of contaminated waste sites, and emergency response;
6. reduction of global and cross-border environmental risks,
7. expansion of Americans' right to know about their environment;
8. sound science, improved understanding of environmental risk, and greater innovation to address environmental problems;
9. credible deterrent to pollution and greater compliance with the law; and
10 effective management.

These 10 goals and associated performance measures help define EPA's priorities for working with Rhode Island and for showing progress towards clear improvement in the state's environmental conditions and resources.

LEAD PROGRAM

EPA Contact: (617) Jim Bryson, (617) 918-1524
National Hotline: 1-800-532-3394 (Hearing Impaired: 1-800-526-5456)

Lead Program - *continued*

A. General Description

Lead, a soft bluish-white, dense metallic element, is a common industrial material. Lead and its compounds have been used in items ranging from paints and varnishes, to pesticides. When it is consumed, lead can be poisonous. For example, it may be fatal for children who ingest dried paint tainted with lead

B. Lead Programs in Rhode Island

As part of the Performance Partnership Agreement, the Rhode Island Department of Health and the EPA are jointly enforcing the regulatory requirements of lead under the Toxic Substance Control Act. The Lead Licensure and Certification Program (Lead L&C Program) has been created The Lead L&C Program is guided by the mission of preventing childhood lead poisoning The program aims to achieve the following in order to reach its goal:

1. Create regulatory standards and work practices that are protective of public health.
2 Promote a viable private sector for conducting environmental lead inspections and lead hazard reduction activities.
3. Ensure the availability of adequate training.
4. Coordinate and cooperate with regulated community, advocacy groups, and the general public.

Keep It Clean Campaign

The RI Department Of Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is a participant in the *Keep it Clean Campaign* with the New England Lead Coordinating Committee, (NELCC). NELCC is collaboration of government agencies and non-profit groups throughout New England that are concerned about lead poisoning.

The *Keep It Clean Campaign* was designed to inform do-it-yourself home renovators, contractors, and those who employ contractors about the risk of lead poisoning in children and adults during the renovation and repainting of older homes. The Department of Public Health goal was that no child will be poisoned this season because their parents didn't know the safe ways to paint or remodel.

Staff at The RI Department of Health distributed lead-safe painting brochures to "The Right Stuff" posters and "Keep It Clean shelf talkers" to seven Rhode Island hardware stores, and trained staff in about safe renovation practices to pass on to their customers

As part of a major public education campaign to support TSCA 406 B Pre-Renovation Lead Information Rule effective June 1, 1999 which instructs contractors who disturb more that 2

Keep It Clean Campaign (Lead Program) - *continued*

square feet of lead paint surface to give notice to affected parties, and to also support the New England Lead Coordinating Committee (NELCC) "Keep It Clean Campaign" to educate homeowners about safe renovation, EPA provided the Rhode Island Department of Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program with financial support and materials for a booth at the Southeastern New England Home Show in Providence, which was held in March 1999.

Safe Lead Housing Task Force
See Urban Environment Initiative, page 72 for description

MERCURY PROGRAM

EPA Contact: Jeri Weiss, (617) 918-1568
RI DEM Contact: Ron Gagnon, (401) 222-6822, Ext 7500

A. General Description

Mercury, a naturally occurring element move through our environment as a result of both natural and human activities. It is also a dangerous persistent, bio-accumulative toxic contaminant that accumulates in living tissue. Most of the mercury that contaminates our New England landscape is from air emissions that are subsequently deposited on land and in fresh water Fish advisories warning sensitive populations to limit their consumption of contaminated fresh water fish have been issued in 40 states, including Rhode Island The sensitive populations of concern include, women of childbearing age, pregnant women and children. Mercury is a neuro-toxic that effects children's development.

B. Mercury Programs in Rhode Island

On June 8, 1998, the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, including the Governor of Rhode Island signed a Mercury Resolution and adopted a Mercury Action Plan. The mercury action plan has a goal for virtual elimination of the discharge of anthropogenic mercury into the environment There are over 40 specific actions to achieve this goal; they includes strategic monitoring, source reduction and safe waste management, and public education and outreach. EPA is implementing a host of regulatory control programs to reduce the emissions of mercury from municipal waste incinerators--the largest source of mercury emissions in the northeast- and other sources such as medical waste incinerators. It is expected that over the next three years these programs will result in decreased mercury emissions of ninety percent from 1995 levels. Last August EPA signed a memorandum of understanding with the American Hospital Association on reducing mercury emissions from this sector. RI is working with their hospitals to implement this MOU and reduce emissions from hospitals.
(see also Enforcement, page 36)

METAL FINISHING STRATEGIC GOALS PROGRAM

EPA Contact: Mark Mahoney, (617) 918-1842
RI DEM Contact: Richard Enander, (401) 222-6680
NBC Contact: Jim McCaughey, (401) 222-6680

A. General Description

The Metal Finishing Strategic Goals Program (SGP) is national partnership of the metal finishing industry, EPA, state and local governments and environmental groups Under the program, metal finishers agree to meet ambitious and measurable environmental goals by 2002. EPA and the other agencies agree to reinvent various programs to assist the metal finishers in reaching the goals Rhode Island is one of six SGP pilot regions in the country because it has a major metal finishing industry and because RI Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM), Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC), Save the Bay and Rhode Island Council of Electroplater (RICE) are active participants.

B. Metal Finishing SGP Projects Implementation in Rhode Island

1. Metal Finishing Project Goal 2000 - a regulatory flexibility project with the Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM).
2. NBC Initiative of Clean-Pollution Prevention - links onsite pollution prevention assessment with compliance assessment and offers enforcement relief for certain types of violations
3. NBC Compliance Assistance - provides the tools and training necessary to improve overall environmental compliance of metal finishers.
4 Brownfields Prevention - RIDEM has developed material that provides critical information to metal finishing firms that wish to withdraw from the industry and transfer their property to new uses
5. New Evaporator Policy - RIDEM is leading an effort to implement an innovative policy that encourages technology to conserve water and prevent pollution.

Environmental Management Systems

In 1999, the Narragansett Bay Commission will begin a two-year project to focus on activities associated with assisting NBC's regulated industrial community with establishing Environmental Management Systems (EMS). NBC will develop and present EMS workshops designed to demonstrate the benefits of developing EMS programs and to assist small to medium size companies, with little environmental resources, to develop appropriately sized EMS programs for their companies. Focus will be made on developing EMS programs that can be expanded upon and developed fully over time NBC also plans to measure and document the existing environmental performance of participating companies and will continue to monitor their performance throughout the project period NBC will work with at least four small to medium size companies and four large companies to develop successful EMS programs over a two year period.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP SYSTEM AND PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

EPA Contact: Katrina Kipp (617) 918-1082
RI DEM Contact: Janet Keller, (401) 222-3434 Ext. 4400
RI DOH Contact: Walter Combs, (401) 222-3118

General Description

The National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS) began as a joint agreement between the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to replace media-specific grant commitments (air, water, waste) with more flexible multimedia Performance Partnership Agreements (PPA) that judge success on environmental results as well as on program activities. This evolving compact emphasizes.

- ❑ Increased use of environmental goals and indicators;
- ❑ focus on environmental results;
- ❑ place-based environmental protection,
- ❑ frequent consultation with stakeholders and the general public on priorities;
- ❑ flexibility to deal with the many widely distributed sources of non-point and small source pollution while maintaining adequate control over end-of-pipe and large sources; and
- ❑ strengthened enforcement.

Performance Partnership Agreements in Rhode Island

In the spring of 1998, EPA and RIDEM signed the second PPA between the two agencies. The PPA for RI Department of Environmental Management and EPA, New England, represents a work plan for the full range of cooperative state/federal environmental programs under RIDEM's jurisdiction It also describes all of RIDEM's non-federal programs, as well, in order to present a comprehensive work plan for RI. The PPA incorporates the separate categorical grants for the §105 Air Program, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Program, the Underground Storage Tank Program, the various Superfund grants, the State Revolving Fund, and the §604(b) Water Quality Planning Program, and it includes a Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) for all eligible water programs

A second PPA was signed between the RI Department of Health and EPA New England in fiscal year 1998 Together, better results can be achieved by continuing to develop a more integrated approach than was possible under EPA categorical grants, and by testing the usefulness of different strategies to improve environmental protection and public health in Rhode Island. The parties commit to working together to overcome barriers to achieve these objectives. The PPA's do integrate programs and priorities among EPA, RIDEM and RIDOH.

Performance Partnership Agreement and Performance Partnership Grants

The Performance Partnership Agreement incorporates several Performance Partnership Grants.

National Environmental Performance Partnership System - *continued*

These include the Air Program, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Program, the Underground Storage Tank Program, the Leaking Underground Storage Program, Pollution Prevention Incentive Grants, Pesticide Program Grants (PPG's), and all Clean Water Act Programs. These PPG's allow RIDEM to combine two or more separate grants allowing for more programmatic flexibility. This approach allows the state to focus on the highest priority environmental issues provided the state can demonstrate accountability by achieving direct environmental results.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

EPA Contact: Betsy Higgins, (617) 918-1051, Timothy Timmerman, (617) 918-1025

A. General Description

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), signed into law on January 1, 1970, establishes national environmental policy and goals for the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the environment and it provides a process for implementing these goals within the federal agencies.

Under NEPA, Title I §102, all federal agencies are required to prepare detailed statements assessing the environmental impact of and alternatives to major federal actions that significantly affect the environment. These statements are commonly referred to as environmental impact statements (EISs). §102 also requires federal agencies to lend appropriate support to initiatives and programs designed to anticipate and prevent a decline in the quality of mankind's world environment.

In general, the degree to which EPA gets involved in attempting to modify a proposed project depends on the level of environmental impacts, the ability and willingness of the proposing federal agency to mitigate those impacts, and the level of responsibility EPA has over the type of impact at issue.

B. NEPA Implementation in Rhode Island

EPA New England has reviewed a wide variety of Rhode Island projects under NEPA. Recent examples include the Freight Rail Improvement Project; the Rhode Island Environmental Management District Highway Access Improvements Project; Siting of the Newport Marine Facilities and pre-filing / scoping level coordination for the Quonset / Davisville Port Proposal. Several of these projects are described below:

Newport Marine Facilities Terminal

EPA reviewed a proposal by the RI Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to improve passenger water transportation service in the Newport area. The proposal included the addition of connections to water transportation modes by providing berths

National Environmental Policy Act - *continued*

on Aquidneck Island for high speed commuter ferries, island ferries, cruise ships and tenders, water buses and/or water taxis. Land based improvements considered include associated passenger waiting/ticketing areas, staging and designated curb areas for multiple passenger vehicles, provisions for service access to vessels, and automobile parking. According to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the proposed marine facilities will improve inter-modal passenger transportation services on a year-round basis for Providence commuters while also supporting tourism and reducing summertime congestion on the island roadway network. As a result of the information generated in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements the Federal Highway Administration and Rhode Island Department of Transportation were able to select a proposal to successfully improve passenger transportation services that will result in minimal impacts to the environment. EPA's NEPA review of the Newport Marine Facilities Terminal project was completed in 1998.

Quonset Point Port Development

Since early June, 1998 the EPA has been actively involved in a stakeholders process established by the Governor of Rhode Island to consider issues associated with the potential development of an inter-modal container port at the Quonset/Davisville site on Narragansett Bay. The stakeholders process considered many environmental, economic and social issues associated with the development of a port, landside facilities and the establishment of a deep draft channel. During the stakeholders process EPA expressed concerns about the project's potential for significant impacts to the environment and continues working in conjunction with other state and federal agencies to actively identify issues that will need to be addressed in the EIS and during the review of the proposal under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The EIS for the project will be prepared by the Corps of Engineers The stakeholders process finished in March, 1999

Providence River and Harbor Maintenance Dredging Project

The Federal Dredging project entails dredging and disposal of 4 million cubic yards of sediment from a 16 8 mile long channel. Over a quarter of the sediment is considered unsuitable for ocean disposal without management to reduce environmental impacts. EPA has participated as a member of a technical advisory committee during the development of the Draft EIS for the project. EPA reviewed the Draft EIS with particular emphasis on the evaluation of impacts associated with various disposal options for the dredge material. EPA continues to offer advice to the Corps about the proper scope of analysis for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) the Corp will prepare for the dredging and disposal activities The Corps plans to issue the FEIS sometime in the year 2000.

NEW ENGLAND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE TEAM

EPA Contact: Mark Mahoney, (617) 918-1842 and Mary Dever, (617) 918-1717
EPA Hotline: 1-888-372-7341

A. General Description

The New England Environmental Assistance Team (NEEAT) is an assistance program which provides companies and small municipalities in New England with the information they need to fulfill their environmental responsibilities The team is working on the following industries: automotive repair and refinishing; electronics/computers; metal finishing; wood coatings; technical and trade schools; and municipalities.

B. NEEAT Implementation in Rhode Island
NEEAT is involved with the Metal Finishing Project Goals 2000.

NEW ENGLAND FEDERAL PARTNERS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES
EPA Contact: Trish Garrigan (617) 918-1583

A. General Description
This partnership, formed in 1995, was a pilot program to foster and promote efficiency in carrying out natural resource responsibilities and activities in the New England region. The Partners will work together with states, tribes, local governments, local people, and others toward a more integrated and comprehensive approach to the management, conservation, restoration, and protection of New England's resources.

The following federal agencies have agreed to work together to more efficiently and effectively deliver programs and assistance based on public participation: US Department of the Army (Corps of Engineers), US Dept. of Agriculture (Cooperative Extension, Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service), US Dept. of Commerce (National Marine Fisheries Service), Economic Development Administration, US Department of Interior(National Park Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, Geological Survey), US EPA, US Dept. of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration), and Department of Housing and Urban Development.

B. New England Federal Partners for Natural Resources in Rhode Island
One of the first projects worked on by the Partners was the *Pawcatuck Watershed Partnership.* This is a locally led effort in which the Partners have made an effort to provide assistance. *See the following description*

Pawcatuck Watershed Partnership
EPA RI Contact: Rob Adler, (617) 918-1396

General Description
The Pawcatuck Watershed Partnership in southwestern Rhode Island and southeastern Connecticut was organized in 1996 in response to requests of people and organizations in the watershed. It is a group of watershed towns, local groups and agencies working together to preserve environmental quality and promote economic vitality in the watershed. The Partnership seeks to bring watershed interests together to collectively address environmental and related issues People of all interests have expressed deep concerns about the future of both water quality and water quantity for drinking water and streams, the fast pace of development and tourism in the region, the loss of rural character and agriculture, inconsistent zoning, inadequate collaboration between towns and between states, as well as other issues Key organizations like the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association and the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District have joined with the agencies in the Partnership to collaboratively support watershed management to ensure that the high quality of rural life is preserved long into the future

Programs and Initiatives for the Pawcatuck Watershed Partnership
The Partnership has undertaken a series of selected projects that are engaging the public,

municipal officials, agricultural and water resource interests. A subcommittee oversees each effort, which include the following strategies and projects now being supported:

1. Strategic Planning to engage and assist local officials and boards to improve their capacity for making informed decisions which affect natural resources and related economic values. Planning is underway with the Washington County Regional Planning Council who requested Partnership assistance to address two issues in particular: (1) protecting ground water as drinking resource, and (2) protecting the character of rural landscape.

2. Public Outreach to improve awareness and understanding of the watershed and its features, to improve the public's ability to take action, to improve participation in the Partnership, and to raise funds for needed assistance and activities The Partnership published and distributed thousands of the Pawcatuck Watershed Report (available from participating Partners) to libraries, town halls, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association members, Conservation District members, agencies, and others Through agency programs, or grants, organizations in the Partnership are developing an assortment of media presentations and road shows. A slide show, video and public service announcements are under preparation or in planning Other outreach media being considered include a newsletter, web site and other means of communication A watershed festival was first held last year, and the second annual festival is being organized.

3. Technical Assistance to local interests to improve community decision-making is being provided The Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) is assessing the quality of information being used in an Environmental Impact Statement being written by CTDOT for a proposed transportation project (auto, bus, rail) to handle traffic generated by Tribal gaming facilities

4. Water Resource Assessment to evaluate ground water and surface conditions and the impacts of people's use on water quality and quantity. A pilot is underway in the Queen River sub-watershed to evaluate assessment techniques and to determine impacts of irrigation water withdrawals on river flows and riverine habitats

Pawcatuck Watershed Partnership Implementation in Rhode Island

The Partnership has been evolving for two-and-a-half years into its current form; consisting of a main 'coordinating' committee (as opposed to a 'steering' committee) with several sub-committees. It seeks to assist communities and state/federal decision making around non-point source issues, protecting critical habitat, and planning to preserve the rural 'country' character of the watershed.

Pawcatuck Watershed Partnership 1997-1999 Grants

In 1997, EPA New England funded $128,000 to the Pawcatuck Watershed Partnership. It sponsored a watershed coordinator and nine community-based watershed resource protection projects EPA's 1998 national grant program to support community sustainable development efforts awarded $50,000 to the Rural Lands Coalition/RI Department of Environmental Management to develop flexible zoning and other techniques to improve the tools available to RI communities to manage growth RIDEM has also directed Section 319 funds from EPA to this sustainable grant. Other substantial EPA New England resources have been committed to

Pawcatuck Watershed Partnerhip - *continued*

the Pawcatuck in the form of technical assistance, GIS mapping, report development and printing

OIL SPILL PROGRAM

EPA Contact: Dennisses Valdes, (617) 918-1261
National Response Center: 1-800-424-8802
EPA Region I's 24hour number: (617) 223-7265

General Description

Preventing oil spills is the major focus of the Oil Spill program. Through contingency planning the number and severity of oil spills can decrease. Some facilities are required to prepare Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) plans to evaluate the storage of oil and look at ways to prevent spills from affecting waterways, developing ways to contain and control potential spills. The Facility Response Plan has placed a greater emphasis on planning to respond to the worst case oil spill at larger oil storage facilities who would potentially impact water. Contingency planning through Area Contingency Planning allow facilities, state, local and federal responders to plan for spills within a geographic area. Once a spill does occur, the response part of the Oil Spill program goes into effect Notification of spills of oil to water are required The notification is made to the On-Scene Coordinator who determines actions as appropriate *To report oil spills and hazardous substance releases, call EPA Region I's 24 hour number and/or the National Response Center listed above*

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

EPA Contact: Peggy Bagnoli (617) 918-1828
EPA Toll Free: 1-888-EPA-REG1

General Description

Partners For Change is an Environmental Protection Agency program that encourages any business, municipality or organized group in New England to explore and implement responsible environmental practices, and to get the recognition they deserve for their efforts. Partners will receive a window decal and certificate of recognition, be listed in EPA's annual Partners to Partners Directory and be featured in EPA-New England press releases. Interested but don't know where to start? Then get the environmental pocketbook, a handy guide with tips on how to eliminate waste and prevent pollution, suggestions on who to call for help and all you need to know to become a Partner for Change. To get the pocketbook or for more information about the program, e-mail: *partners region1@ epa gov* or call *1-888-EPA-REG1*

POLLUTION PREVENTION ACT

EPA Contact: Mark Mahoney, (617) 918-1842
EPA Hotline: Wastewise 1-800-372-9473

A. General Description

The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 requires the Environmental Protection Agency to establish an Office of Pollution Prevention, develop & coordinate a pollution prevention strategy, and develop source reduction models. In addition to authorizing date collection on pollution prevention, the Act requires owners & operators of manufacturing facilities to report annually on source reduction and recycling activities. Owners & operators of manufacturing facilities

Pollution Prevention Act - *continued*

are required to report annually on their releases of toxic chemicals to the environment under the *Emergency Planning & Community Right to Know Act of 1986, §313* The Pollution Prevention Act requires that these reports include information about the facility's efforts in source reduction and recycling.

B. Pollution Prevention Implementation in Rhode Island

Industrial Toxins Project

A major voluntary strategy has been the Industrial Toxins Project, commonly known as the "30/50 program " This program ended the week of September 15, 1996. 1300 companies participated and achieved the goal of reducing by 757 million pounds the amount of toxic chemicals released into the air and water. This project allowed facilities that were regulated under the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 up to six additional years to comply if they voluntarily reduce total emissions to all media of 17 targeted chemicals by 33% from 88 levels by 92 and 50% by 95. The chemicals and industrial sources were identified from the Toxic Release inventory (TRI), mandated by *Emergency Planning & Community Right to Know Act.* TRI was the primary means to measure 3 3/5 0's success.

EPA Pollution Prevention Grants

See Grants, pages 77 and 83

POLLUTION PREVENTION PERMITTING PILOT PROJECTS

EPA Contact: Brendan McCahill, (617) 918-1652

General Description

The EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) and three EPA regions are launching a project to examine opportunities to promote pollution prevention through incentives created in permits issued under Title V (the Federal Operating Permit Program) of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

EPA's overall goal is to make permit flexibility and pollution prevention a way of business, day-to-day, in the Title V permit program. The assumption is that overall environmental quality benefits by use of pollution prevention as a technique to reduce air emissions rather than standard end-of-pipe pollution control which can transfer pollution from one medium to another.

PROJECT XL

EPA Contact: George Frantz, (617) 918-1833

General Description

Project XL encourages real world tests of innovative strategies that achieve cleaner and cheaper environmental results than conventional regulatory approaches. Under the program, EPA grants regulatory flexibility in exchange for an enforceable commitment by a regulated entity to achieve better environmental results than would have been attained through full compliance with current regulations EPA has set a goal of implementing fifty pilot projects nationwide in four categories:

- ❑ XL projects for facilities;
- ❑ XL projects for sectors;
- ❑ XL projects for communities,

Project XL - *continued*

- XL projects for government agencies

Project Selection - using a simple and flexible application process, EPA will accept and review projects on a rolling basis. Once a project is selected, EPA's goal is to move to implementation within six months. Proposals will be short, approximately 10 pages in length, and must address the following eight criteria:

1. Environmental Results
2. Cost Savings and Paperwork Reduction
3 Stakeholder Support
4 Innovative/Multi-Media Pollution Prevention
5. Transferability to other Industries or Facilities
6. Technical, Administrative, and Monetary Feasibility
7. Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation Techniques
8. Shifting of the Risk Burden that must ensure worker safety and be consistent with environmental justice concerns

Project Implementation - EPA is taking a decentralized or "franchising" approach to the implementation of XL projects. Individual projects should be managed by the units of government that are best suited to address the issues raised by the project EPA will not move forward with projects unless state and tribal regulatory agencies are full partners. Proposals developed with local governments, environmental groups, and citizens organizations will be viewed favorably.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT

EPA RI Contact: Beverly A. Fletcher, (617) 918-1395
RIDEM Contact: Terrence Gray, (401) 222-2797, Ext. 7100
RCRA Hotline: (800) 424-9346, TDD (800) 553-7672 (Monday-Friday, 9am - 6pm EST)

I. General Description

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) established the Federal Program regulating solid and hazardous waste management. RCRA actually amends earlier legislation (the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965), but the amendments were so comprehensive that the Act is commonly called RCRA rather than its of official title The Act defines solid and hazardous waste, regulates generation and transportation of wastes and establishes a permit program for hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.

The Federal solid waste law has gone through four major phases The Solid Waste Disposal Act focused on research, demonstrations, and training. It provided for sharing with the States the cost of making surveys of waste disposal practices and problems, and of developing waste management plans. The Resource Recovery Act of 1970 changed the whole tone of the legislation from efficiency of disposal to concern with the reclamation of energy and materials from solid waste. It authorized grants for demonstrating new resource recovery technology, and required annual reports from the EPA on means of promoting recycling and reducing the generation of waste. In a third phase, the Federal Government embarked on a more active, regulatory role, embodied in RCRA (1976). RCRA instituted the first Federal permit program for hazardous waste and prohibited open dumps. In a fourth phase,

embodied in the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments on 1984, the Federal Government attempted to prevent future cleanup problems by prohibiting land disposal of untreated hazardous wastes, setting liner and leachate collection requirements for land disposal facilities, setting deadlines for closure of facilities not meeting standards, and establishing corrective action programs

EPA-NE Solid Waste Program

The goal of the solid waste program is to "reduce, reuse, and recycle" the estimated 14 million+ tons of solid waste and unknown quantities of non-hazardous and industrial wastes generated in New England each year. The program has a number of small grants which work towards this goal. The program priorities are to: market development for recyclables, promote source reduction and reuse, provide technical assistance and disseminate information; create and support government and tribal infrastructures to promote solid waste management and to promote procurement of recycled commodities.

Rhode Island RCRA Program

Congress intended for states to assume responsibility for implementing RCRA solid and hazardous waste programs with federal oversight. Through the state program authorization process the state obtained approval from EPA to implement federal regulations promulgated through 1988 The State has adopted pieces of subsequent legislation and the remainder are implemented by EPA. Under Rhode Island General Laws, Chapter 23-19 the state promulgated regulations to administer the hazardous waste program managing the generation, transportation, treatment, storage and disposal of waste. For FY99 EPA will provide $565,000 through the Performance Partnership Grant to assist implementing the program The state will provide matching funds in the amount of $1,214,885.

The State promulgated its own regulations managing solid waste generation, transportation, storage and disposal and adopted federal regulations as well Currently is considering the state's request for solid waste program authorization under federal regulations. The state regulations are:

Solid Waste Regulation No. 1, General Requirements, effective 1/97
Solid Waste Regulation No 2, Landfills, effective 1/97.
Solid Waste Regulation No 2, Landfills, effective 1/97.
Solid Waste Regulation No. 4, Incinerators and Resource Recovery Facilities, effective 1/97
Solid Waste Regulation No 5, Waste tire Storage and Recycling Facility, effective 1/97.
Solid Waste Regulation No 6, Petroleum Contaminated Soil Processing Facility, effective, 1/97
Solid Waste Regulation No 7, Facilities that Process Construction and Demolition Debris, effective 1/97.
Solid Waste Regulation No 8, Rhode Island Solid Waste Composting Facility, effective effective 1/97.
Rules and Regulations Governing the Generation, Transportation, Storage, Treatment, Management and Disposal of Regulated Medical Waste in Rhode Island

II. RCRA Status in Rhode Island

State Program Authorization
EPA RI Contact: Beverly A. Fletcher, (617) 918-1395
RI DEM Contact: Leo Hellested, (401) 222-2927, Ext. 7502

General Description
Rhode Island is authorized to implement RCRA base program as well nearly all other Federal RCRA regulations promulgated through June 30, 1988. Each year the state expands its RCRA authority by sending an application(s) to EPA for authorization to implement specific regulations which would enhance the existing program. In order to expand state program RIDEM is working on a number of applications for authorization. The state is making final changes to the non-HSWA IV/Toxicity Characteristic Rules application for authorization and will forward the package to EPA for approval Approval of the non-HSWA IV provisions applied for will expand the program to include regulating certain wastes found during ground-water monitoring, identifying and listing hazardous waste procedures and liability determinations for waste facilities. Approval for the Toxicity Characteristic Rule will expand the program to include regulating the criteria used to determine whether a waste is a hazardous waste

During FY99 the State will submit draft applications for authorization for both the Universal Waste and Corrective Action Rules. EPA will review and, if appropriate, suggest revisions. RI DEM is developing a long range RCRA program authorization strategy. The strategy will establish priority among RCRA rules for which the state us not authorized and schedule deadlines for draft and final application packages for the next few years.

Corrective Action
EPA Contact: Frank Battaglia, (617) 918-1362
RIDEM Contact: Warren Angell, (401)222-2927 Ext.7137
General Description
While the State is not currently authorized to implement a Corrective Action Program it does provide assistance to EPA in carrying out the federal Corrective Action Program. However, it intends to submit an application for authorization to EPA this Fiscal Year. The Corrective Action program addresses RCRA facilities where past and/or present activities resulted in releases of hazardous waste and hazardous constituents into soil, groundwater, surface water, and/or air In accordance with the statute the federal or state program works with a facility owner or operator to conduct an investigation and cleanup, or remediation, of the hazardous releases. EPA is overseeing four Corrective Action sites in Rhode Island. They are.

1. Agency Realty (Carroll Prod), Wood River Junction
2. Chem Pak Corporation, Cranston
3 Ciba Geigy Corporation, Cranston
4. Northland Environmental, Inc , Providence

Information Management
EPA Contact: Lynn Hanifan, (617) 918-1644
RIDEM Contact: Terrence Gray, (401) 222-2927 Ext.7100

Information Management - (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) - *continued*

General Description
Under the provisions of RCRA the regulated community is required to report hazardous waste management information to EPA and the States. Certain provisions of RCRA require EPA and the states to track information generated in implementing their respective programs. EPA compiles the information in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information System (RCRIS) and the Biennial Reporting System.

Hazardous Waste Permits
EPA Contact: Marina Cronin, (617) 918-1575
RIDEM Contact: Leo Hellested, (401) 222-3872 Ext. 7502

General Description
Operating Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDF) are required to apply to the state or EPA for a permit to manage hazardous waste. The operating permit establishes the administrative and technical conditions under which the facility must be managed. Included are technical standards for the design and safe operation of TSDFs.

Treatment Storage and Disposal Facilities	RI DEM Contact
Chem Pak Corporation, Cranston	Yan Li, (401) 222-4700, Ext. 7529
Northland Environmental, Inc Providence	Yan Li, (401) 222-4700, Ext. 7529
21st Century Environmental Management, Warwick	Mark Dennen, (401) 222-4700, Ext. 7112

Solid Waste
EPA Contact: Mike Hill, (917)918-1398
RIDEM Contact: Leo Hellested, (401) 222-3872 Ext. 7502

General Description
The solid waste program promotes and encourages the environmentally sound management of solid waste. It includes minimum federal technical standards and guidelines for state solid waste plans.

III. Programs and Initiatives to Manage Solid and Hazardous Waste in Rhode Island

The following programs and initiatives help manage solid and hazardous waste in Rhode Island. Climate Change Action Plan, Jobs Through Recycling Initiative (JTR), Research Library for RCRA, Underground Storage Tank/Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program (UST/LUST), and WasteWi$e Program. A description of these programs/initiatives follows:

Climate Change Action Plan
EPA Contact: Cynthia Greene, (617) 918-1813
This program funds projects that reduce green house gases through recycling or source reduction solid waste. *(see also, Enforcement, page 35)*

Jobs Through Recycling Initiative
EPA Contact: Christine Beling, (617) 918-1792
RI DEM Contact: Thomas E. Armstrong, (401) 222-3434, Ext. 4412

General Description
The "Jobs Through Recycling "(JTR) initiative was launched by Carol Browner in 1994 under

Jobs Through Recycling Initiative - (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) - *continued*

RCRA 8001 (recycling) as a way to create markets for recyclables and to create jobs in the process. Since 1994 the initiative has funded 36 states, 5 tribes and 3 multi-states. A review of 4 well established programs shows that for an investment of $1 million in JTR grants, over 1700 jobs were created and $290 million in capitol investment for recycling. In the second year of the initiative, the specific Jobs Through Recycling program objectives were to encourage innovative approaches to stimulate the development of recycling and reuse businesses that use recyclable or reusable materials in areas of the country where there is a demonstrated absence of local and regional markets; and contribute to economic development and create / retain jobs

RCRA Research Library
EPA Contactor: Fred Friedman, Research Library for RCRA, (617) 918-1807

General Description
The Library provides information, technical assistance, research and answers to solid waste questions as well as providing information on grants and loans available for non-hazardous waste management, recycling, source reduction, reuse and solid waste education projects The program also has a solid waste librarian who responds to over 3200 calls per year for information and assistance.

Underground Storage Tanks and Leaking Underground Storage Tanks
EPA Contact: Kim Schweisberg, (617) 918-1307
RI DEM Contact: Bruce Caterall, (401) 222-2797, Ext. 7115

General Description
The goal of this program is to protect public health from exposure to hazardous substances and groundwater and other resources for present and future uses by preventing or promptly detecting accidental releases of petroleum or hazardous substances stored in underground storage tanks.

In 1986, Congress created a petroleum Underground Storage Tank (UST) response program by amending the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and through the Superfund Amendments Reauthorization Act (SARA). The new provisions authorized the Federal Government to respond to petroleum spills and leaks, creating a Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Trust Fund The money in the fund is derived primarily from a 0.1 cent per gallon Federal tax on motor fuels and several other petroleum products. Congress also authorized EPA to develop regulations for the management of USTs storing petroleum and hazardous substances

RI received state program approval in February, 1993 to operate the UST and Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) management programs under state regulations. The state regulations were codified effective December, 1993 (40CFR Part 282.89). The primary focus of the UST program has been compliance assistance towards meeting the December 22, 1998 corrosion protection deadline for bare steel tanks. The program will continue it's pollution prevention focus in the future through compliance monitoring of leak detection equipment and measures designed to prevent or warn of potential underground leaks

UST / LUST Program Implementation in Rhode Island
As of December 22, 1998, there was an 83% compliance rate towards meeting the corrosion protection deadline for bare steel tanks Approximately 500 tanks at 151 facilities are still in need of upgrading or being closed The program is also tasked with continuing leak detection inspections at more than 2,000 active facilities to prevent future releases of regulated substances If a site is found with on or off-site contamination from a leaking UST, a program manager in the LUST program is assigned. The number of LUST sites is approximately 460, and will most likely increase as a result of the substandard tank closures occurring in response to the December 22, 1998 deadline Approximately 75 LUST sites have been determined as the cause of severe off-site pollution. Because these sites lie in areas where problems could threaten Narragansett Bay, local rivers and streams, and groundwater resources, RI DEM and EPA New England are taking steps to strengthen release prevention programs in the State to ensure that regulated underground storage tanks no longer present a human health or environmental hazard.

WastewiSe Program
EPA Contact: Cynthia Green, (617) 918-1813
This is a national voluntary program which encourages businesses to reduce and recycle their wastes.

IV. EPA RCRA Grants
See Grants, pages 77, 79, 80 and 83

RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE PROTECTION PROJECT
EPA RI Contact: Rob Adler, (617) 918-1396

A. General Description
The Rhode Island Resource Protection Project (RIRPP) is part of a New England-wide effort to identify the region's most important natural resource areas. Initiated by the state environmental regulatory agencies, EPA-New England, and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, the project is a cooperative effort that is based on the understanding that human health and welfare are dependant on healthy, functional ecosystems. The Resource Protection Project targets the states' most important natural resources for attention in order to maximize the limited staffing and funding available for protecting the natural resources that comprise these ecosystems In 1995, a workgroup convened to initiate the Rhode Island project and it established three goals for the project:

- ❑ Identify "Resource Protection Areas" in RI that are in good ecological health or encompass important natural resources
- ❑ Facilitate the protection of critical natural resources in the identified Resource Protection Areas by working with all appropriate parties.
- ❑ Provide information and input to New England region-wide Resource Protection Project.

The workgroup members identified nine Resource Protection Areas which contain many of the state's most important natural resources:
1 Block Island
2. Eastern Blackstone

Rhode Island Resource Protection Project - *continued*

3. Eastern Sakonnet
4. Hunt/Potowomut
5. Moosup River/ Western Blackstone
6 Narragansett Bay
7 South Coastal Ponds
8. Western Pawtuxet
9. Wood/Pawcatuck

B. Resource Protection Project Implementation in Rhode Island

As the project proceeds, its participants will work to implement the project goals through existing programs and facilitate partnerships to protect valuable resources in the identified areas as effectively as possible. The project will not create new regulatory programs. Protection strategies will differ for each region Implementation will not be possible without the full involvement of local governments, state environmental and resource agencies, private organizations, and federal agencies. Funding for this program is provided by EPA Headquarters through their *Regional Geographical Initiative Grant Program*

State-Wide Small Grants Program for Resource Protection

The descriptions of the RIRPP small local grants for 1997 all occur in the Pawcatuck Watershed while grants for 1998 occurs across the state but not in the Pawcatuck Watershed. The 1999 round of grants have been issued. *(see also Local and Community Grants, pages 81)*

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

EPA RI Contact: Ellie Kwong, (617) 918-1592
RI DOH Contact: June Swallow, (401) 222-6867
SDWA Hotline: 1-800 426-4791

I. General Description

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) of 1974 directs the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish minimum national drinking water standards. These standards set limits on the amounts of various substances sometimes found in drinking water. This means that every public water supply in the country serving at least 15 service connections or 25 or more people must ensure that its water meets these minimum standards. Even non-community supplies, such as campgrounds and roadside motels with their own water supplies, are covered by the regulations.

SDWA Amendments of 1986

In 1986, Congress passed a set of amendments that expanded the protection to be provided by the SDWA. These amendments accelerated EPA's regulation of contaminants, banned all future use of lead pipe and lead solder in public drinking water systems, mandated greater protection of ground water sources of drinking water, and streamlined enforcement procedures to ensure that suppliers comply with the Act.

SDWA Amendments of 1996

The SDWA Amendments of 1996 established a new charter for the nation's public drinking water systems, States, and the Environmental Protection Agency in protecting the safety of drinking water. Highlights of these amendments focuses on:

Safe Drinking Water Act - *continued*

- Preventive approaches in source water protection, state ground water protection, capacity development and operator certification.
- Consumer Information.
- Consumer Awareness - community water systems are to prepare an annual consumer confidence reports about the source of their drinking water and the levels of contaminants found in the drinking water and how these plainly worded reports are to be distributed; an EPA hotline for consumers with more information on drinking water contaminants and potential health effects and a bottled water consumer study
- Public Notification - the basis for EPA's public notification regulation is altered to clarify those violations requiring 24 hour notice and those that may be provided at a later date.
- Regulatory Program addresses Contaminant Selection, Standards and Regulation Development, Arsenic, Sulfate, Radon and Disinfection Byproducts, Drinking Water Studies and Research, Small Systems Technology, Variances and Exemptions, Monitoring, and Enforcement
- Funding for States and Water Systems -A total of $9.6 billion is authorized in FY's 95-2003 for the *Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.* *See page 59 for additional information.*

II. Rhode Island's Safe Drinking Water Status

To date, most of the large and medium size community water systems (CWS) have met all 1994 health-based standards Most of the non-transient and non-community water systems (NTNC) and small CWSs with intensive technical assistance from the state, are able to meet all 1994 health-based standards. However, small CWSs and NTNCs will face difficulty in complying with regulations promulgated under the Amendments of 1996 while complying with the existing regulations.

NTNC's do not have the technical or managerial expertise necessary to operate or maintain the systems Based on 1997 compliance reports, 35 (7%) public water systems out of 491 systems were in violation of monitoring requirement(s) and 22 (3 8%) systems out of 491 systems exceeded health standards Eighty-three percent of the violations occurred in very small water systems that serve fewer than 500 people.

Based on the U.S. Census Data, approximately 97% of the population in Rhode Island are served by public water systems. Eighty-three percent of the public water systems are small systems which were responsible for 83% of the violations

In order to achieve the goal of providing clean and safe drinking water, EPA working with the state needs to address issues revolving capacity development, source water protection, monitoring, data quality and most importantly, multiple .water treatments that may potentially have a significant impact on compliance with other drinking water standards.

It is EPA's goal to increase compliance rate of health-based standards to 97% of the population served by CWSs with zero waterborne disease in the State. Twenty three percent of CWSs and NTNCs which have had a health based standard violation in the last 12 months will improve compliance with health-based standards through the use of the Drinking Water SRF.

III. Programs and Initiatives for Safe Drinking Water in Rhode Island

The following programs and strategies are to provide safe drinking water in Rhode Island: Drinking Water Outreach Program, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, Ground Water Protection Program, Source Water Assessment Program, Underground Injection Control Program, Wellhead Protection Program, and the Water Alliances for Voluntary Efficiency program.

Drinking Water Outreach Programs

EPA RI Contact: Al Ku'ahi Wong, (617) 918-1596

General Description

Drinking water outreach activities include participating in Rhode Island's Drinking Water Week Committee (RIDWWC); coordinating with various RI drinking water organizations to promote EPA-Region I's Consumer Awareness Award Program and the Drinking Water Environmental Educator Award Program; the CT/RI Rural Water Association, RI Water Works Association, New England Water Works Association and Atlantic States Rural Water and Wastewater Association and other drinking water partners in developing/delivering outreach programs.

Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund

EPA Contact: Maria McCarthy, (617) 918-1298
RI DOH Contact: Bob Haviland, (401) 222-6867

A. General Description

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments were signed into law on August 6, 1996 One of the significant elements of this legislation was the authorization to create a Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRLF) program to assist public water supply systems to finance the costs of infrastructure needed to achieve or maintain compliance with SDWA requirements and to protect public health. §1452 has authorized the Administrator of the US EPA to award capitalization grants to states which in turn can provide low cost loans and other types of financial assistance to eligible systems.

The SDWA Amendments of 1996 has also established a strong emphasis on preventing contamination problems through source water protection and enhanced water systems management Central to this emphasis is the development of state prevention programs including source water protection, capacity development, and operator certification States have the option to use a portion of their capitalization grant to fund these eligible activities (a number of various available state set-asides) as allowed in the statute The success of these activities will act to safeguard the DRSWLF funds that are loaned for improving system compliance and public health. The DRSRLF is fundamentally a state program Each state will have considerable flexibility to determine the design of its program and to direct funding toward its most pressing compliance and public health protection needs Only minimal federal requirements will be imposed.

The SDWA Amendments of 1996 authorized $559 million for FY94 and $ 1 billion per fiscal year from 1995 through 2003 for such grants Funds appropriated for the FY97 DWSRLF were $ 1.275 billion Funds available to the states from the FY97 appropriations has been allotted according to the formula used for distribution Public Water Supply

Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (Safe Drinking Water Act) - *continued*

Supervision (PWSS) grants under § 1443 in FY95 Funds available to states from FY98 appropriations and beyond will be allotted according to a formula that reflects the proportional share of each state's needs identified in the most recent "needs survey" conducted pursuant to§1452(h) In each case, the minimum proportionate share established in the formula will be one percent of the funds available for allotment to the states.

B. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Implementation in Rhode Island

On December 19, 1997, EPA awarded a partial grant of the requested $2,260,584 to the State of Rhode Island, in particular, to Clean Water Finance Committee on behalf of the Department of Health The funds will be partitioned into the following:

- ❑ The DWSRF Administrative set-aside (up to 4% of capitalization allocation).
- ❑ The State Program Management set-aside (up to 10% of capitalization allocation).
- ❑ The Small Systems Technical Assistance set-aside (up to 2% of capitalization allocation).
- ❑ The Local Assistance and other State Programs set-aside (up to 15% of capitalization allocation).

Ground Water Protection Program
EPA Contact: Rob Adler, (617) 918-1396
RI DEM Contact: Ernie Panciera, (401) 222-4700, Ext. 7603

A. General Description

The Ground Water Protection Program (GWP) is authorized under RIDEM 'Rules and Regulations for Groundwater Quality.' Protection is also embodied in the rules and regulations and program initiatives of other RIDEM programs, such as the Underground Storage Tank program, the Leaking Underground Storage Tank program, the Underground Injection Control Program, Ground Water Discharge Program, Pesticides Program, Individual Sewage Discharge System program, Solid and Hazardous Waste programs, etc. The ground water program's 'Rules and Regulations for Groundwater Quality' includes rules for the Wellhead Protection program, the Groundwater Classification System, Groundwater Quality Standards and Preventative Action Limits, Groundwater Remediation requirements, Groundwater Quality Certification, and Monitoring Well requirements Paramount to ground water protection and Remediation is the groundwater classification of the all RI ground waters. The classification and standards specify the quality that ground waters are to attain for their designated uses Such as GAA is specified for where ground waters are of good quality and should be maintained for drinking water purposes, while GB areas are occur in urban locations and waste site areas where it is undesirable to use ground water for drinking water supply without treatment (See Wellhead Protection Program also). The Office of Water Resources also reviews actions affecting ground water and issues Water Quality Certifications to insure compliance with water quality classification standards. Ground water protection is also a key interest of EPA and RIDEM Watershed activities of the Office of Water Resources The RIDEM, EPA and other organizations are developing a state-wide Watershed Approach. The approach would spell out a sequence of actions to assess environmental qualities of watersheds, to monitor key indicators and to develop action plans and restoration measures, and the means to implement protection management. Since ground water is a source of drinking water for 29 of Rhode Island's 39 towns, its

protection is a critical concern for those communities.

Principally, the groundwater quality program requirements are integrated throughout RIDEM programs, initiatives and their regulations. The Classification rule prohibits many actions, activities and facilities which are inconsistent with maintaining the assigned ground water classification and standards in the regulations

The Watershed Approach and Source Water Protection are two programs which will focus on managing human activities to protect ground water and surface water environments, stream and upland habitats, and the qualities of life. These programs seek a community-based approach with the collaboration of local municipal officials, regional, state and federal agencies, and organizations to serve as stewards for the watershed's natural resources and culture. Many of today's threats to water quality are not well regulated and mostly reflect the influence of land use activity, which is governed at the local level. Providing the resources and tools that community officials need to support wise land use decisions is a primary interest of these programs *(see also, Wellhead Protection Program, page, 63).*

B. Ground Water Protection Program Implementation in Rhode Island
The Ground Water program is on going and is fundamental to all related RIDEM program and EPA programs

Source Water Assessment Program
EPA RI Contact: Emanuel Souza, (617) 918-1594
RIDEM Contact: Clay Commons, (401) 222-3436

A. General Description
The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires states to establish and implement Source Water Assessment Plans (SWAPs). The SWAP requires the State to identify the areas that are a source of public drinking water, assess public water system's susceptibility to contamination, and inform the public of the results. Through source water assessments and consumer right-to-know reports, States and public water systems will inform the public about their drinking water, and can then engage consumers, States, and upstream neighbors in partnerships to do what needs to be done in treatment or prevention.

B. SWAP Implementation in Rhode Island
The State submitted a SWAP to EPA in February, 1999. EPA has until November, 1999 to approve RI's program.

Underground Injection Control
EPA RI Contact: Rob Adler, (617) 918-1396

A. General Description
The 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act as amended in 1986, Title VII "Safety of Public Water Systems"; Part C "'Protection of Underground Sources of Drinking Water (USDW)"'; §1421-1426 contains the Underground Injection Control (UIC) "Program Statutory Authority. EPA has promulgated a series of UIC regulations (40 CFR Parts 144 -148) under

Underground Injection Control (Safe Drinking Water Act) - continued

this authority to control the subsurface injection of fluids through wells to protect Underground Sources of drinking water. The UIC program regulates injection of wastes through five classes of wells. The first four classes are prohibited in Rhode Island, including wells to discharge hazardous wastes, fluids for oil and gas production or mineral extraction. Only Class V-Shallow Wells can be permitted for the injection of non-hazardous waste. Owners or operators of injection wells are prohibited from allowing the movement of fluid containing any contaminant into underground sources of drinking water, if a contaminant may cause a violation of any primary drinking water regulation in 40 CFR Part 141, or may otherwise adversely affect human health.

Rhode Island, like the other New England States, were delegated primacy to implement their UIC Programs in the mid 1980's Rhode Island receives approximately $45,000 per year for program administration RI's UIC program regulates Class V well types that include wells, leach fields, leaching pits, leaching trenches, dry wells and cesspools. Non-residential wastewater disposal systems that are not connected to a sewer system that discharges to surface water, discharge their wastewater into the ground through shallow wells - injection type wells Class V discharge effluents that are of concern include chemical wastes, process wastewater, treated and untreated sewage, storm water, waste water, floor drainage, spills drainage, etc. Many of these can be susceptible for containing hazardous substances. Any Class V well used to inject a RCRA hazardous waste is reclassified as a prohibited Class IV well and must be closed.

Programs and Strategies for UIC

Current Regional Activities - RI, like the other New England states, focus their UIC program activities to protect drinking water and surface water resources. Their goal is to eliminate all unauthorized UIC discharges and minimize the impact of Class V Wells on drinking water supplies Rhode Island coordinates its UIC program with other state efforts to identify and close potentially harmful Class V wells. All New England states plan or have active cooperative programs with their State Board of Plumbers to revise plumbing codes that require construction of floor drains that discharge to Class V wells. EPA and the States provide UIC related education, technical assistance and outreach to local governments and regulated businesses. The States provide businesses with P2 outreach materials that encourage contaminant source reduction, recycling, waste treatment and prevention of contaminant release. The NE States actively focus State UIC outreach and education and inspection, permitting and enforcement efforts to support Well Head Protection, Public Water Supply Source Water Protection and Watershed Protection

B. UIC Program Implementation in Rhode Island. RIDEM has:

1 initiated a statewide inventory of facilities that may potentially have UIC disposal systems;
2. continued Rhode Island Wellhead Protection UIC Enforcement Initiative Project; continued work with previously identified facilities with UIC disposal systems , so that they may obtain approval or permanently abandon existing UIC disposal systems;
3 provided outreach to towns regarding development of WHPA UIC inventories;
4. coordinated evaluation of state storm water disposal regulation with other DEM regulatory programs;

Underground Injection Control (Safe Drinking Water Act) - *continued*

5. coordinated with the RIDEM Office of Water Resources Standards Section to make improvements to the groundwater discharge permitting program;
6. met with municipal officials to discuss BMP development for storm water drainage systems and discussed storm water and UIC regulatory program requirements.

EPA-NE also coordinated on development of Performance Partnership Agreement and Performance Partnership Grant for Underground Injection Control Program Elements.

Water Alliances for Voluntary Efficiency
EPA Contact: Barbara Mcgonagle, (617) 918-1608

General Description
The Water Alliances for Voluntary Efficient Program (WAVE) is an innovative EPA program designed to focus national attention on the value of water and the need for efficient use of this important natural resource The WAVE Program encourages hotels and motels, through voluntary partnership agreements with EPA, to implement and install water saving techniques and equipment. Under this voluntary, non-regulatory program, hotel and motel facilities will be upgraded with water efficient procedures and equipment wherever it is profitable and practical to do so With this program, multiple national benefits can be produced.

Wellhead Protection Program
EPA Contact: Rob Adler, (617) 918-1396
RI DEM Contact: Ernie Panciera, (401) 222-2234, Ext. 7603

A. **General Description** (from the recent RI Wellhead Protection Biennial Report)
Ground water is extremely valuable to the State of Rhode Island. Two-thirds of Rhode Island communities rely in whole or to a great degree on ground water resources for their drinking water supplies. Twelve communities derive all their drinking water from ground water sources through water supply wells It makes sense to prevent its contamination.

The RI Wellhead Protection Program (WHPP) is one of the programs that Rhode Island relies on to protect ground water resources to maintain safe drinking water supplies. This program was required of states by the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1986, and RI DEM developed RI's current program. Most of the State's ground water is of good to excellent quality. The nature of RI's ground water resources and geologic nature makes them vulnerable to contamination. Conditions such as a high water table, unconfined permeable soils, and fractured bedrock may allow pollutants to be easily transported. The number of sites at which persistent ground water contamination has been confirmed continues to grow and now exceeds 450. Chemical contamination data from public wells indicates approximately 15 - 20 % of public wells tested for volatile organic compounds have reported a positive detection.

Taking steps to prevent contamination of ground water is the best method to preserving drinking water supply quality now and into the future. The RI WHPP, established in 1990, seeks to protect those ground water resources contributing water to public wells in the state. Wellhead Protection program requirements were first incorporated into the RIDEM Groundwater Quality Regulations in July 1993, and most recently in the May 1995

Wellhead Protection Program (Safe Drinking Water Act) - *continued*

regulations It applies to all public wells and focuses on the portion of the aquifer known as the 'wellhead protection area (WHPA) ' All WHPAs were delineated by RI DEM in 1993, and is periodically updated There are 645 wells located in thirty-one communities. Wellhead protection areas for community public water supply wells were delineated using mathematical models, while most wellhead protection areas for non-community wells have a 1750 foot radius protection area The total acreage designated as WHPAs in RI is approximately 92,760 acres, nearly 13% of the state's land area. The program emphasis is on those wells that serve year-round resident populations, referred to as community water supply wells. There are 160 community wells located in twenty-seven municipalities There are 100 non-transient, non-community public water supply wells, and 380 transient, non-community wells (serving small restaurants, service stations, and other facilities serving a transient populations.

Programs and Strategies for Wellhead Protection

Towns and large public water suppliers are responsible to conduct contaminant or pollution source inventories within wellhead protection areas They are further responsible for developing local protection programs for the community public water supply wells, and future well sites if known. Several towns have sought to protect larger aquifer areas which encompass the wellhead areas Also, protection is afforded under RI law and regulations which prohibit certain facilities from being located in wellhead protection areas or in GAA ground water resources which are often used for community wells. Types of facilities which are restricted include those which handle or store hazardous materials or wastes, landfills, industry with floor drains, etc EPA is providing $ 60,000 for funding a series of local wellhead protection projects to improve protection for small water suppliers across the state.

B. Wellhead Protection Program Implementation in Rhode Island

The RIDEM has delineated wellhead protection areas (WHPAs) for all wellhead protection areas in the state These have been located by EPA using global positioning system technology and have been mapped and are available through RI GIS (RI Geographic Information System). Towns with public water supply wells (29 towns) have been provided mylar maps of the wells and WHPAs for their use in conducting pollution source inventories and developing protection management for those areas Pollution source inventories have been completed in 25 of the 29 towns, and 10 of 15 large public water suppliers. Four municipal wellhead protection plans have been submitted and approved, Charlestown, South Kingstown and West Greenwich and Tiverton. Also, four of the nine large public water supply systems, including Kent County Water Supply, Lincoln Water Commission, Pasco Water District, and Jamestown have completed their wellhead programs and have received approval for them.

Wellhead Protection Program 1998 Grants

EPA provides primary funding to RIDEM for the Wellhead Protection and Ground Water programs through the Clean Water Act, Section 106 Water Quality Program funding source.

IV. EPA SDWA Grants

See Grants, page 78

SMART GROWTH INITIATIVE

EPA RI Contact: Alison Walsh, (617) 918-1593

At the Smart Growth Strategies for New England Conference held in Boston, MA on February 2, 1999, EPA-NE recommitted to implement the agency's "Smart Growth Action Plan" in support of this cooperative and collaborative approach. The Action Plan calls for· (1) elevating public awareness; (2) building effective partnerships; (3) reshaping EPA's programs and policies, and (4) strengthening local capacity. DeVillars also announced plans to forma a "New England Smart Growth Partnership" to help shape, guide and build upon this Action Plan and the results of the conference. DeVillars encouraged all present to promote and facilitate smart growth in order to protect New England's unique environment and make its communities livable. *See also "Grow Smart Rhode Island", page 70 and Sustainable Development Challenge Grants, page 81. The Smart Growth Action Plan can be viewed at EPA-NE's web site. http //www epa gov/region01*

STARTRACK PROGRAM

EPA Contact: David W. Guest, Esq., (617) 918-1814 / Marge Miranda, (617) 918-1825
RIDEM Contact: Carolyn Weymouth, (401) 222-6822, Ext. 4422

A. General Description

StarTrack is a program that seeks to better environmental performance through environmental management systems and third party certification. It's goal is to expand and reward the use of compliance audits and environmental management systems and thereby improve protection of the environment, increase public understanding of a company's environmental performance, and achieve more efficient use of public and private resources. Much as the public and regulators rely on independent auditors to certify the financial integrity of corporations, we believe a similar approach to environmental governance - StarTrack - holds the promise of substantial environmental integrity at less expense to the taxpayer

The concept - a company agrees to:
Audit its environmental management and compliance performance each year,
Prepare and publish a comprehensive environmental performance report annually.
Triennially have its audit results reviewed and certified by an independent third party.

The benefits are:
Correction period and limited penalty amnesty for violations.
Recognition for participation and completion of program requirements
Partnerships with EPA, state and other regulatory agencies.
Modified inspection priority.
"Express Lane" service for permits and other regulatory actions

The requirements are:
Comprehensive Compliance Audit: The company will conduct a comprehensive audit of all aspects of compliance with federal, state and local environmental regulations in accordance with StarTrack audit protocol, identifying all areas of non-compliance and resulting in a corrective action plan including a schedule addressing required corrections and preventative actions, where necessary.

Environmental Management Systems Audit: The company will conduct an audit to assess its overall environmental management system in accordance with StarTrack EMS audit protocol

Environmental Management Systems Audit (StarTrack Program) - *continued*

(based on ISO 14000), identify potential areas for improvement, and develop a prioritized implementation plan for addressing those areas.

Independent Third Party Review of Audits and Audit Findings by Qualified Auditors: The company will retain a qualified, independent third party to review audits. The third party certification provides an accurate and credible independent assessment of the company's compliance status and system effectiveness status as well as recommendations for improvement in compliance and environmental management and pollution prevention, as appropriate.

Environmental Performance Report. The company will prepare a publicly available environmental performance report documenting the company's efforts, providing a record and a communication tool for interface with the public, employees and regulators regarding the Company's environmental programs and performance.

B. StarTrack Implementation in Rhode Island

Toray Plastics of North Kingstown is the current RI participant.

To participate in the StarTrack Program, a company must have an established compliance auditing program, and a demonstrated commitment to compliance, pollution prevention, and continuous improvement of environmental performance.

SUPERFUND PROGRAM

EPA Contact: Richard Boynton, (617) 918-1331
RIDEM Contact: Leo Hellested, (401) 222-3872, Ext. 7502
Superfund Hotline: (800) 424-9346, TDD (800) 553-7672 (Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm EST)

A. General Description

The Superfund hazardous substance cleanup program was created by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980. It was amended and reauthorized by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. The Act authorizes the Federal government to respond to spills and other releases of hazardous substances, as well as to leaking abandoned hazardous waste dumps Hazardous substances are identified under the Solid Waste Disposal Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, or are designated by the EPA.

There are two types of governmental responses. (1) short term emergency removals; non-time critical removals and (2) long term remedial actions taken at sites on the National Priority List (NPL). The NPL is determined by a Hazardous Ranking System (HRS) which scores such factors as the quality and nature of the hazardous wastes present, the likelihood of contamination of ground water, surface water and air, and the proximity of the site to population and sensitive natural environments.

EPA's Office of Site Remediations and Restoration has prioritized "protecting human health and the environment through completion of remedial, removal and emergency response activities," and EPA's national Superfund cleanup goal is to complete 650 remedy constructions by the year 2000. EPA Region I, New England, hopes to contribute significantly to this national goal by means of implementing several initiatives to "promote faster, fairer, more efficient cleanups." "The polluter pays" still governs our approach to cleanups; Thus, enforcement and voluntary

clean ups of sites by responsible parties are preferable to expenditure of Superfund resources for site clean-ups.

B. Superfund Implementation in Rhode Island

EPA has worked aggressively to clean up hazardous waste problems in Rhode Island. In cooperation with RIDEM, final cleanup activities are completed, underway or in design phase at most of Rhode Island's 12 sites listed on the National Priority List. More than 15 emergency response actions have been taken in the State to remove immediate threats to human health and the environment. As of Fiscal Year 1997, EPA had spent over $52 million in RI to clean up Superfund sites.

Brownfields

EPA Contact: John Podgurski, (617) 918-1209
RIDEM Contact: Greg Fine, (401) 222- 2927, Ext. 7139
Web Site: www.epa.gov/brownfields

General Description

Brownfields are abandoned, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or re-development is complicate by various levels of environmental contamination. Originally begun as an EPA initiative in January, 1995, the national brownfields program has since evolved into a collaborative effort involving more than 15 federal partners. This collaborative, referred to as the Brownfields National Partnership, was created by President Clinton in June, 1997 to promote beneficial reuse of contaminated sites. EPA's Brownfields Program consists of various initiatives designed to work with local, state and tribal partners to foster locally-driven, environmentally-sound brownfields re-use solutions. Key Brownfields Programs in Rhode Island are:

Brownfield Assessment Demonstration Pilots

Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots are grants of up to $200,000 to local, tribal and state governmental entities to conduct site assessment and related activities at brownfields sites. An important goal of this program is to assist recipients in developing a long-range strategy for Brownfields re-use. Pilots are selected through a national competition. A total of 300 pilots have been awarded nation-wide, 49 are located in New England, two in Rhode Island: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation.

Targeted Brownfields Assessments

Under this initiative, EPA uses its contractors to conduct brownfields assessments at sites identified by the local entity as being a high-priority for re-use. Brownfields assessments typically involve a review of existing site records, site sampling and preparation of a preliminary clean-up cost estimate. The information gathered allows local government officials and developers to make informed decisions regarding the redevelopment potential of a site A total of 35 targeted Brownfields assessments have been initiated or completed in New England, 2 in Rhode Island. Rau Fasteners in Providence and Spintex Mill in Central Falls.

Showcase Communities

As part of the multi-federal agency Brownfields National Partnership, sixteen communities

Brownfields - *continued*

were selected to receive Showcase Community designations following a national competition. The federal partners will work with selected communities to revitalize brownfields properties.

The City of Providence, in partnership with the RI Department of Environmental Management and the Providence Plan, was the recipient of one of these sixteen Showcase Community designations. Under this program, EPA provided each Showcase Community with a $200,000 Brownfields Demonstration Pilot and assigned an EPA-employee to work full time at the designated community for two years.

Emergency Response
Emergency response sites are sites at which an accidental release of hazardous substances has occurred or is imminent. A sudden release of this type requires immediate response to ensure protection of public health and the environment. Types of circumstances which might trigger an emergency action are transportation accidents, bursting tanks or pipelines, spills to waterways, fires at factories, etc. Types of activities might include cleanup of spill hazardous substances, evacuation of residents, supplying bottled water, etc. The following activities are anticipated to be occurring the State of Rhode Island:

- ❑ Response Planning
- ❑ Exercises
- ❑ Inspection Programs

Superfund Remedial (NPL) Sites
EPA Contact: Dick Boynton, (617) 918-1331
RIDEM Contact: Warren Angell, (401) 222-3872

General Description
Remedial actions are generally longer-term and usually more costly actions aimed at a permanent remedy. Trust fund monies for remedial construction may be used only for sites listed on the NPL Typical remedial actions may include removing buried drums from the site, thermally treating wastes; pumping and treating ground water; and applying bio-remediation techniques or other innovative technologies to contaminated soil. There are twelve sites at which a remedial action is underway They are:

1. Central Landfill, Johnston
2. Davis GSR Landfill, Smithfield
3. Davis Liquid (Tire Dump), Smithfield
4 NCBC-Davisville, North Kingstown
5. Landfill Resource & Recovery (L&RR), Lincoln
6 NETC-Newport, Newport, Portsmouth & Portsmouth
7 Peterson-Puritan, Cumberland
8. Picillo Pig Farm, Coventry
9 Rose Hill Landfill, South Kingston
10. Stamina Mills, North Smithfield
11. West Kingstown Town Dump, south Kingstown
12. Western Sand and Gravel, Burrillville

Superfund Removal Sites
EPA Contact: Steve Novick, (617) 918-1271

FY99 Short Term Removal Actions in Rhode Island
Through the Superfund removal program, EPA can respond quickly when there is a threat or an actual release of a hazardous substance. Removal actions are initiated at sites which pose an immediate threat to human health or the environment. It can also respond should there be a release of oil (See UST and LUST under RCRA). Normally, removal actions are limited both in terms of duration and cost (Generally an action will last no longer than 12 months and cost no more than $2 million.) Since December, 1980, EPA has conducted 60 removal actions in Rhode Island. In addition, in the last ten years, the removal program has responded to 65 oil and chemical emergencies. Typical removal actions include removing tanks or drums of hazardous substances on the surface, installing security measures such as a fence at a site or providing a temporary alternate source of drinking water to local residents.

Superfund Reform Initiatives
The Superfund program has achieved substantial progress in cleaning up hazardous waste sites and protecting human health and the environment with cleanup underway at 89 percent of the sites on the National Priorities List (NPL), excluding Federal Facilities. To make the program faster, fairer, and more efficient, EPA launched three rounds of Superfund reforms beginning in 1993 that cover a wide range of Superfund concerns, including enforcement, public involvement, State and Tribal empowerment, cleanup effectiveness, economic redevelopment, environmental justice, and program consistency

Brownfields
EPA Contact John Podgurski, (617) 918-1291

Beneficial Reuse
EPA Contact Don Porteus, (617) 860-4317

Community Empowerment
EPA Contact Alice Kaufman, (617) 918-164

Information Technology & Superfund Ombudsman
EPA Contact John Smaldone, (617) 918-1207

Superfund Site Assessment
EPA Contact Matt Audet, (617) 918-1449

Updating Remedy Decisions
EPA Contact Larry Brill, (617) 918-1301

EPA Superfund Grants
See Grants, pages 79 and 84

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

EPA contact: Rosemary Monahan, (617) 918-1087

General Description

This competitive grant program was piloted in FY96 challenging communities to invest in a sustainable future, recognizing that sustainable environmental quality, social quality, and economic prosperity are inextricably linked Over the first three years of the program, approximately $10.5 million have been awarded to a total of 96 projects Sustainable Development Grants include:

Grow Smart Rhode Island

EPA Contact: Alison Walsh, (617) 918-1593
Grow Smart RI Contact: Shelia Brush, (401) 273-5711

A. General Description

Low density auto dependant development patterns of land use, known as "Sprawl", have dominated our New England Landscape since World War II This development of land pattern is expensive, inefficient, environmentally damaging, energy consumptive, socially isolating and ugly. In Rhode Island, suburban sprawl has drained 20% of the farmlands in the last 15 years, and 26,000 acres of rural land, in the past 10 years If Rhode Island continues to grow in this manner, we will seriously jeopardize drinking water resources, air quality, the ability to grow food, places to recreate, and a healthy and diverse ecosystem capable of sustaining Rhode Island into the future

The mission of Grow Smart Rhode Island is to bring together diverse interests to protect and improve Rhode Island's quality of life, economic vitality, environmental health, and the unique physical character created by the state's historic cities, towns, villages, farms, forests and open spaces This will be achieved by promoting business and residential growth in urban and town centers and advancing open-land conservation and the preservation of rural character.

B. Grow Smart Implementation in Rhode Island

To achieve these goals, Grow Smart RI will coordinate and encourage broad community participation in examining the impacts of RI's current developing patterns and considering alternative options for development. Also, Grow Smart RI will cultivate a common vision for the state's future growth and advocate programs and policies to achieve the common vision.

The group's first projects are to produce a report documenting the impacts which sprawl is having on RI's economy, environment, community character, and quality of life and to survey Rhode Islander's values and opinions concerning development issues. In addition, Grow Smart will work in partnership with the broad range of organizations addressing growth issues in Rhode Island and to organize public forums at which Rhode Islanders can some together to talk about how we want our state to develop Other initial public education efforts include a web site and a newsletter. *See also Grants, page 81*

TOXIC SUBSTANCE CONTROL ACT

EPA TSCA Contact: Marvin Rosenstein, (617) 918-1631
EPA Asbestos and Lead Contact: Jim Bryson, (617) 918-1524
RIDOH Lead Contact: Marie Stoekel,(401) 222-4948
EPA Radon Contact: Mona Haywood, (617) 918-1534

RIDOH Asbestos & Radon Contact: Roger Marinelli, (401) 222-2438
EPA Hotline numbers for TSCA: Asbestos Hotline: (800) 368-5888, Lead Hotline (800) 532-3394 (Hearing Impaired: 1-800-526-5456), Radon Hotline (800) 767-7236

A. General Description

Episodes of environmental contamination, including contamination by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), opened the way for the final signing of TSCA into law by President Ford on October 11, 1976. The law authorizes EPA to screen existing and new chemicals used in manufacturing and commerce and to identify potentially dangerous products or uses that should be subject to regulatory control. A variety of regulatory tools is available to EPA under TSCA ranging from a total ban to restrictions on production or use. TSCA directs EPA to use the least burdensome option that can reduce health risks to a reasonable level. Currently, four ubiquitous chemicals are actively managed by EPA and State Agencies· PCBs, Lead (Pb), Radon (Rn)and Asbestos. EPA Region 1 provides financial and technical support for the Rhode Island DOH programs for Pb, Asbestos and Radon

B. TSCA Programs and Initiatives in Rhode Island

Asbestos Program

Asbestos has been commonly used for fireproofing, building materials, brake linings and chemical filters. Chronic exposure to asbestos may lead to Asbestosis, the inflammation of the lungs and subsequently cancer of the lung The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) has an approved performance partnership agreement (PPA) with EPA which takes into account both federal and state asbestos regulatory program elements Title II of TSCA is the Asbestos Hazardous Emergency Response Act (AHERA) and regulates asbestos in schools including required inspections and asbestos management plans by school personnel, accreditation of asbestos abatement training providers and training and certification of abatement industry personnel The RI DOH has applied for and received a "waiver" for the program from EPA which gives all responsibility for implementing the program to the State.

In addition, the RIDOH has an MOU with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to enforce the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Pollutants (NESHAPS) under the Clean Air Act for the renovation and demolition of buildings containing asbestos. The AHERA and NESHAPS programs are coordinated by the DOH to maximize efficiency. Each year EPA negotiates a "compliance monitoring strategy" with the RI DOH for these programs agreeing on compliance monitoring targets and commitments.

Lead Program

Lead, a soft bluish-white, dense metallic element, is a common industrial material. Lead and its compounds have been used in items ranging from paints and varnishes, to gasoline, to pesticides. While it has been banned by EPA for use in paint and gasoline, residual risk around and in older residences is prevalent, particularly in our inner cities. When it is consumed, for example when toddlers eat old paint chips, inhale leaded paint dust, or play in soil contaminated by the deterioration of exterior leaded paint, Pb can be poisonous. At low doses it impairs the neurological development of children such that lifelong impacts on learning abilities and intelligence can occur. At high enough doses, Pb has severe impacts on the body and can result in death.

As part of the Performance Partnership Agreement, the Rhode Island Department of Health is

Lead Program - *continued*

enforcing both state and federal regulatory requirements for lead under Title IV of the Toxic Substances Control Act. The RIDOH Lead Licensure and Certification Program (Lead L&C Program) provides accreditation of Pb training providers and the training and licensing of Pb abatement industry personnel. The RI DOH has certified that its program is as protective as the federal program and that it has adequate enforcement authority and resources. The program also has established regulatory standards and work practices for the private sector for conducting environmental lead inspections.

The L&C Program is just one component of the total RIDOH program to combat childhood Pb poisoning. The RIDOH also has programs focusing on education and outreach to parents, schools, the medical infrastructure and other constituencies, as well as the general public, on Pb poisoning prevention practices, and for blood Pb screening and treatment of children suffering from Pb poisoning.

Radon Program

Radon is a radioactive gas It comes from the natural decay of uranium and radium that is found in nearly all soils and some ground water. It is odorless and colorless and typically seeps through the ground into your home through cracks and other holes in the foundation or through release of radon from domestic water use. Your home traps radon inside, where it can build up. Any home may have a radon problem. Prolonged exposure to radon can cause lung cancer.

The RIDOH has implemented a program of technical assistance and outreach, as well as regulatory activities where appropriate, for the testing and mitigation of radon per both state regulations and Title III of TSCA, the Radon Indoor Abatement Act. The program is embodied in the PPA with EPA, and RIDOH and EPA work together to implement outreach programs for radon awareness, testing and mitigation.

EPA TSCA Grants

See Grants, pages 78, 79 and 83

URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE

EPA RI contact: Kristi Rea (617) 918-1595

A. General Description

Through UEI, EPA, Region 1, New England is committed to partnering with community leaders and others to identify and address critical urban issues and targeted cities. EPA's goal is to develop community environmental capacity and to involve communities more substantially in the environmental decision making process. The principals of environmental justice, community based environmental protection, pollution prevention, and economic development are the cornerstones of this effort

B. UEI Implementation in Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Environmental Justice Network

The Rhode Island Environmental Justice Network is a coalition of numerous local grassroots organizations including: the *Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy, Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE), The Urban League of Rhode Island, the Hmong United Association of Rhode Island, and the All South Providence Union (ASPU).* The Network focuses on environmental issues, the issue of vacant lots in particular, which affect low income people of

Urban Environmental Initiative - *continued*

color in Rhode Island's urban areas. Major goals of the Network include the enhancement of community capacity to identify and solve local environmental problems and to better understand and use public health and environmental data

The Network hosts regular coordination and planning meetings involving community groups, sponsors educational workshops and trains community residents to map neighborhood environmental risks Each organization involved with the Network brings their own innovative, community-based approach to environmental and health issues The Environmental Justice Network is a great example of local, grassroots organizations uniting together to more effectively and accurately identify and address environmental issues in their neighborhoods.

Providence Environmental Strike Team and Vacant Lot Program

The City of Providence has been an active and successful participant in the identification, confrontation and amelioration of a variety of urban environmental issues within city boundaries One such initiative spearheaded by the city is the Providence Environmental Strike Team (PEST) coordinated by the city's Office of Environmental Affairs. The Strike Team's mission is to enforce City environmental laws, while focusing attention on the illegal dumping of materials on vacant lots (such as solid waste and demolition debris, automobile parts, tires and waste oils) which pose a hazard to human health and the environment Furthermore, PEST has established a hotline for complaints, an Environmental Court, a system for ensuring compliance, and conducts public education and outreach programs to inform citizens of their rights and responsibilities under the city's environmental laws.

Another example of a progressive city project currently underway is their Vacant Lot Program. Under this initiative, a full time Vacant Lot Program Coordinator will be responsible for long-term coordination of strategies The coordinator will also facilitate communications among City agencies and build partnerships between the City and neighborhood residents to eliminate and/or reuse blighted vacant lots. Unlike many public programs of the past (designed with the assumption that public officials always know what is best for communities), the Program Coordinator will be advised by a Vacant Lot Task Force, established by the Mayor in 1996 to address the issue of vacant lots and comprised of various community, government, and public representatives. This program is just another example of how community organizations and local and state agencies, under the guidance of the Urban Environmental Initiative, are collaborating to solve pressing urban environmental and health issues. Due to the approval and success and designed in the image of the Mayor's Vacant Lot Task Force, the city has also initiated a Lead Safe Housing Task Force. The Lead Safe Housing Task Force is comprised of a fifty member board from a wide range of community organizations, private organizations, non-profits, and local, state, and federal government.

Safe Housing Lead Task Force

In March 1998, Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr. established a multi-stakeholder Safe Housing Lead Task Force to develop a comprehensive, practive strategy for protecting children and improving the quality of the local housing stock to reduce and prevent lead poisoning. Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (Rhode Island State Unit and the Urban Environmental Initiative), Rhode Island Department of Health, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the City of Providence, non-profit organizations, parents, local residents, academia, churches, community centers, private industry, and political representatives

Safe Housing Lead Task Force (Urban Environmental Initiative) - *continued*

served on the task force.

One in three children in the City of Providence have elevated blood lead levels, and lead poisoning is the most common childhood disease. Members of the task force broke into three subcommittees -- Housing, Health and Education, and Funding -- and spent over six months developing a set of comprehensive recommendations for the City of Providence relating to lead poisoning remediation, mitigation, and prevention. The final report was released in November, 1998.

In January, 1999 a small, multi-stakeholder Steering Committee was formed including representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (Rhode Island State Unit and the Urban Environmental Initiative), City of Providence, Rhode Island Department of Health, non-profit organizations, local residents, and churches The Steering Committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Task Force report recommendations relating to Housing, Health and Education, and Funding. The partners involved in the Task Force final report received $4 M in funding from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to remediate lead from targeted housing units and conduct an education and outreach program over the next three years.

URBAN RIVERS INITIATIVE
EPA Contact: Margherita Pryor, (617) 918-1597

A. General Description

Rhode Island was the home of the industrial revolution in the United States, and one of the critical sources of its success in this historical process was the state's access to water power Five rivers flow into the upper reaches of Narragansett Bay: the Blackstone, Seekonk, Woonasquatucket, West, and Mossashuck Rivers. Surrounded by urban land uses, these rivers do not now support the Clean Water Act's goals of being fishable, swimmable waters In the summer of 1997, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) and the U S. EPA held hearings on water resources in the state as part of a process to gather public input on RIDEM priorities for addressing water quality problems When the public identified these urban rivers as priorities, RIDEM and EPA created an Urban Rivers Team to focus management attention and resources on the area. The Urban Rivers Team currently includes the RI Department of Transportation, the RI Department of Health, the RI Coastal Resource Management Council, the U.S. EPA - Region I, the RIDEM, the Providence Plan, the Woonasquatucket Watershed Coalition, and the Narragansett Bay Commission.

B. Urban Rivers Initiative Implementation in Rhode Island

Although the mission of the Urban Rivers Team is to protect and expand uses of all the urban rivers by improving their water quality, the team decided to focus initially on the Woonasquatucket River as it flows through Smithfield, North Providence, and Providence. With funding from all participating members, the team's first efforts have included shoreline surveys to determine potential pollution sources, water quality sampling to follow up on the surveys, and the development of strategies to abate identified pollution problems

WATERSHED APPROACH

EPA RI Contact: Rob Adler (617) 918-1396
RIDEM Contact: Elizabeth Scott, (401) 222-3961, Ext. 7300

A. General Description

The "Watershed Approach" is made up of three key components:

1. Geographic Focus: Watershed's are nature's boundaries. They are the areas that drain to surface water bodies. A watershed generally includes lakes, rivers, estuaries, wetlands, streams, and the surrounding landscape. Ground water recharge areas are also considered.

2. Continuous Improvement Based on Sound Science: Sound scientific data, tools and techniques are critical to inform the process. Actions taken include characterizing priority watershed problems and solutions, developing action plans, and evaluating their effectiveness within the watershed.

3. Partnership/Shareholder Involvement: Watersheds transcend political, social, and economic boundaries Therefore, it is important to involve all the affected interests in designing and implementing goals for the watershed. Watershed teams may include representatives from all levels of government, public interest groups, industry, academic institutions, private landowners, concerned citizens, and others. EPA offers many varieties of help as a partner in the watershed approach The role EPA plays is defined by its legal mandates and the needs identified by the community EPA is assisting Typically, EPA provides technical, financial, coordination, and enforcement support related to its authorities. Copies of EPA watershed related documents may be obtained from the National Center for Environmental Publications and Information (NCEPI) at PO Box 42419, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242, (513) 489-8695 (FAX). Information on watersheds is also available at: **www.epa.gov/OWOW**, state environmental agencies and watershed organization's internet web sites.

B. Watershed Approach Implementation in Rhode Island

A watershed is all the land over and through which water flows on its way to a stream, river, lake, estuary or ocean. Managing natural resources on a watershed basis offers an opportunity to comprehensively plan and implement activities over a naturally defined area within which the interactions of land, human activities and natural conditions can be monitored, assessed and understood. Interested Rhode Islanders are preparing an approach on how to conduct environmental planning and to address environmental issues on a state-wide and watershed basis.

The Watershed Approach promotes a new management strategy where partnerships are a cornerstone for environmental planning and action implementation. The Approach under development would give state and federal managers a more comprehensive understanding of local management needs, as well as a clearer justification for targeting priority concerns and determining appropriate actions. This Approach encourages organizations and local interests to be involved in planning and activities to assure competent, creative, and comprehensive solutions tailored to local needs and conditions. It emphasizes the importance of coordinating programs in order to use government funds and staff wisely on efforts that are meaningful to organizations and local interests.

Watershed Approach - *continued*

Rhode Island's approach envisions using a five step management cycle which would also divide the state into 5 groupings of watersheds - "watershed regions." Each region would be assigned into one of the cycle's five steps to coordinate work within that watershed region. The five step cycle include the following:

1. outreach and scoping;
2. resource assessment;
3. action plan development or revision;
4 implementation; and
5. evaluation of efforts.

The approach would be flexible, understanding that regions are already active and will not align into each of these steps neatly, and that there is some level of activity in each step already occurring. The process would be iterative over several cycles for years to come. The process also calls for a 'watershed team' in each region that would aid steering activities, a watershed coordinator to busily organize and coordinate among all stakeholders, and a state-level management leadership group to oversee the approach.

"People making decisions"

Photo courtesy of
Rhode Island Tourism Division
Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation

RHODE ISLAND 1998 GRANTS

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

$1,655,915 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): Performance Partnership Grant for Water Pollution. This grant is a Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) for Rhode Island's water programs such as· water pollution control, non-point source management, water quality, wetlands and underground injection control. Contact· Alicia Good, (401) 222-3961, Ext 7214

$575,000 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): Performance Partnership Grant for Waste. Funds provide federal assistance to Rhode Island in implementing waste and pollution prevention incentives for states programs. While the waste grant was initially awarded on 12/19/96, it was amended in September 1997 to add funds supporting a pollution prevention project to evaluate the evaporation process in metal finishing operations and to integrate pollution prevention into an ISO 14000 management system. Contact: Terry Gray, (401) 222-3872, Ext. 7100

$488,159 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): Performance Partnership for Consolidated Pesticides Programs There are four distinct, continuing pesticide programs administered by each of the New England States that the EPA helps support through one or more cooperative agreements with each state. These programs are pesticide enforcement, pesticide applicator certification, worker protection, and groundwater protection. Contact: Elizabeth Lopes-Duguay, (401) 222-2781, Ext. 4510

AIR GRANTS

$1,212,500 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): Air Pollution Control Program. This continuous annual grant supports ongoing statewide air resources management planning for stationary and mobile sources, ambient air quality monitoring system operations and maintenance, and statewide air enforcement activities. Contact: Steven Majkut, (401) 222-2808, Ext. 7010

$5,000 --- Rhode Island Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (RICOSH)
This grant was provided to develop interest in EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Action Kit by conducting at least one seminar for school and municipal officials and by providing continuing technical assistance to schools on how to implement the Tools for Schools' comprehensive indoor environmental approach. Contact: Jim Celenza, (401) 751-2015

WATER GRANTS

$112,437 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): Water Quality Management Planning. This grant is issued to states annually under the Clean Water Act. Rhode Island uses the funds to: 1) conduct chemical baseline water quality monitoring at 25 river stations in the state; 2) characterize the biological community/integrity of 40 stations using the methodology of EPA's rapid bio-assessment protocol; and 3) support the staff that supervises this work and prepares the required water quality assessments for EPA. Contact. Connie Carey, (401) 222-3961, Ext. 7239

$53,000 --- University of Rhode Island: Evaluation of the Water Quality Analysis Program Version 5 (WASP5) Model Using Mesocosm Data. These funds are being used to support modification of a water quality model for eutrophication in the Providence and Seekonk Rivers The first and second phases are complete and now work is proceeding on completing the modifications and providing them to ASA a contractor for the State of RI that is tasked with incorporating the modifications into a revised model. Contact: Chris Turner, RI DEM, (401) 222-3961, Ext. 7229

$227,768 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): Narragansett Bay Estuary Program. This year's projects include· a state-wide symposium on nitrogen/nutrient control within the bay; an inventory of benthic invertebrates at salt marsh reference sites - data from which will be fed into the development of a comprehensive Bay-wide salt marsh restoration strategy; distribution of habitat resource maps to coastal communities so they can better integrate resource protection into town planning processes; and development of maps to pinpoint locations of potential coastal wetland restoration sites within the Bay. Contact: Richard Ribb, (401) 222-3165, Ext. 7271

$387,614 --- Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH): Public Water Supply Supervision Program. The funds will help the Department of Health implement and enforce the state and federal drinking water standards. This program assures that people in Rhode Island have access to safe and healthy drinking water Contact: June Swallow, (401) 222-6953

$9,033,100 --- Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency. The Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund grant provides the state with monies to support its State Revolving Loan fund. The state in turn provides low interest loans to its communities for water pollution control projects. Annual repayments of the low interest loans that are now flowing into State CWSRF accounts will be recycled into new loans for critical water pollution control projects Contact: Anthony Simeone, (401) 453-4430

$6,302,351 --- Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency. The Federal State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) grants provide the State with monies to support its State Revolving Loan funds. The State in turn provides low interest loans to its communities for water pollution control projects, and will be providing loans to communities for drinking water infrastructure projects Annual repayment of the low interest loans that are now flowing into the SRF accounts will be recycled into new loans for critical water pollution and drinking water projects. Contact: Anthony Simeone, (401) 453-4430

PESTICIDES & TOXICS GRANTS

$121,970 --- Rhode Island Department of Public Health: Lead. The funds are provided to develop and carry out authorized programs for the training of individuals engaged in lead-based paint activities, the accreditation of training programs for these individuals, and the certification of contractors engaged in lead-based paint activities Contact. Robert Vanderslice, (401) 222-4948

$137,140 --- Rhode Island Department of Health: State Indoor Radon Grant Program
The purpose of these grants is to establish and maintain a state radon program. The program in all states covers outreach to the public and affected groups such as builders and real estate agents, school testing, coalition building, homes testing and remediation, and other special projects such as radon in water research. All of these activities are geared toward the reduction of the risk of lung cancer due to exposure to radon, a radioactive gas, and its radioactive progeny. Contact: Roger Maranelli, (401) 222-2438

SUPERFUND GRANTS

$396,176 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): Superfund Core Cooperative Agreements States are awarded these agreements in order to conduct Superfund implementation activities that are not directly assignable to specific sites, but are intended to support a state's ability to participate in the Superfund response program. Funds are provided for non-site-specific activities to develop and enhance the base capabilities of state programs, promote meaningful participation in Superfund implementation, and build State program capabilities to meet Superfund response requirements. Contact: Angela Shulman, (401) 222-3872, Ext. 7133

$23,278 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): Superfund Multi-site Cooperative Agreements/Pre-remedial. This continuous grant provides annual support to each state for Superfund project management activities at pre-remedial sites in each state. Contact: Timothy Regan, (401) 222-3872, Ext. 710

$215,600 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): Superfund Multi-site Cooperative Agreements/NPL. This continuous grant provides annual support to each state for Superfund project management activities at National Priority List (NPL) sites in each state. Contact: Warren Angell, (401) 222-3872, Ext. 7137

WASTE GRANTS
(Excluding Superfund)

$50,000 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Trust Fund. This grant funds core program activities to support state staff for LUST emergency response. The funds also provide oversight support for on-site assessments, cleanup plans and monitoring corrective progress activities, including enforcement and cost recovery when appropriate. Contact: Bruce Catterall, (401) 222-2797, Ext. 7504

$200,000 --- City of Providence: Brownfields IPA. This is a cooperative agreement that provides for Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) funding. An EPA staff person has been detailed to the City for two years to work on Brownfields activities. Contact: Thom Deller, Deputy Director of Planning, (401) 351-4300

$200,000 --- Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation: Brownfields Assessment Pilot Activities under this grant include inventory of sites, site assessments and community outreach. The pilot is scheduled to last for two years. Contact. James Saletnik, (401) 222-2601

$400,000 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): State Brownfields Assessment Pilot. This is another assessment pilot managed by the State. Activities include inventory of sites, site assessments and community outreach. Contact: Greg Fine, (401) 222-3872, Ext 7139

LOCAL AND COMMUNITY GRANTS

Environmental Justice, Pollution Prevention, Multi Media and Environmental Education

$20,000 --- City of Providence: Office of Environmental Affairs: Providence Environmental Strike Team. The City of Providence has created an environmental strike team in the Department of Public Works Environmental Control Division. The team will enforce city environmental laws -- in particular illegal dumping of materials on vacant lots such as solid waste and demolition debris, automobile parts, tires and waste oils The city has established a hotline for complaints, an environmental court, a system for ensuring compliance, and will be conducting public education and outreach to inform citizens of their responsibilities under the city's environmental laws. Contact: Luke Driver, (401) 421-2489

$20,000 --- Environmental Education Diversity Forum. The purpose of the forum is to form a strong coalition of community based organizations, environmental organizations, local groups, government agencies, businesses, churches, and grant makers to integrate diversity and empower individuals through environmental education and awareness. The forum will create a comprehensive environmental directory, an annual environmental diversity conference, a neighborhood "Watch 2000" program, and an environmental information clearinghouse. Contact: Sussie Rush, (401) 461-3018

$55,000 --- Keep Providence Beautiful: "Groundwork/Providence". Groundwork's mission is to bring about sustained regeneration, improvement, and management of the physical environment by developing community-based partnerships that empower people, businesses and organizations to promote environmental, economic and social well-being. In the first year of the program, Keep Providence Beautiful has chosen three pilots sites to revitalize, including land located in some of the most disadvantaged neighborhoods of the city such as the West End, Lower South Providence and Smith Hill Contact: Kathleen Beck, (401) 351-6440

$37,500 --- Providence Plan: Woonasquatucket River Watershed Environmental Education Program. The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Environmental Education Program will expand its outreach to eight additional schools and two community centers in the neighborhood of Olneyville, a designated Enterprise Community with a diverse population. Participants will learn about the geology, history, and ecology of the river. Contact: Jane Sherman, (401) 455-8880

$25,000 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): Pollution Prevention Incentive for States for Metal Finishing. This is a grant to evaluate evaporation as a way to minimize waste and to achieve compliance in metal finishing operations. Contact: Terrence Gray, (401) 222-3872, Ext. 7100

$16,660 -- Youth In Action (Providence) Art Park Project. Youth in Action (YIA), the first organization in Rhode Island created and controlled by youth from the community, supports local youth to develop their leadership skills, train their peers to identify community problems, and use art as a way to reach the community Funding for this project will transform an empty lot into a community park by training (7) multilingual youth to involve the community in creating art, gardens, and greenspace for the park, and to coordinate community-building events in the park once it is created Contact: Karen Feldman, (401) 751-3086

$5,000 --- Environment Council of Rhode Island Education Fund, Inc. (Ed Fund).
The Rhode Island Education Fund seeks to include environmental education into the curricula of elementary and secondary schools throughout the state via current education reform efforts. Ed Fund will form 10 three-member teams to assess environmental education curricula. They will also attempt to establish a contact at each of the 416 schools in RI to keep them aware of quality environmental education materials The Ed Fund also proposes to establish an environmental education web page to build, update, and make each school's contact person available to the environmental education community. Contact: Guy Lefebyre, (401) 727-8154

$5,000 -- Keep Providence Beautiful (KPB). KPB has organized "Green Teams" to educate minority youth ages 14-18 about the importance of a clean, safe, and beautiful neighborhood. With the help of an environmental educator, teams plant and maintain public spaces during the summer, and in winter apply what they have learned by assisting with KPB environmental clubs in the local elementary schools. Contact. Laura Archambault, (401) 351-6440

$5,000 -- The Salt Ponds Coalition. This project creates a student-produced, 15-minute video on wastewater management in RI. The video overviews state and local septic system regulations and an array of advanced waste water technologies currently being piloted. On-site waste water disposal systems are a high priority environmental issue in RI. The students along with active community environmental groups ensure the education and environmental message and distribution of the video. Contact· Brenda Dillman, (401) 364-0034

$237,250 --- Grow Smart Rhode Island, Inc. The purpose of the project is to demonstrate the effectiveness of a broadly based statewide effort to increase public awareness of the economic, environmental, and social costs of sprawl and the feasibility of establishing broad-based citizen participation in the development and implementation of a common vision for Rhode Island's future economic and physical growth. Contact: Sheila Bush, (401) 273-5711

Local Resource Protection Small Grants
Funded by the U S EPA & Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRCS Contacts Vicky O'Neal, (401) 822-8820 & Joe Bachand (401) 822-8818
EPA RI Contact Rob Adler, (617) 918-1396

$8,875 --- Economics of Preserving Land, Development and Property Taxes in RI
Southern New England Forest Consortium
This study for Rhode Island communities is looking at the relationship between permanent land conservation for open space or critical natural resources and its effect/relationship to property taxes and town revenue. The study will look at short and long-term implications so that towns and taxpayers can make informed decisions about balancing land conservation and development, and look at the impact of commercial development over time Study will focus on three communities.

$6,700 --- Drinking Water Protection - Analysis of Aquifer and Well Head Protection Areas, Burrillville
Town of Burrillville (URI Coop Extension is assisting)
The project evaluates the effects of buildout on the town's aquifer and wellhead areas. It will help the town to address inconsistencies in its Comprehensive Plan, which calls for encouraging dense development in its mill villages, while trying to protect wellhead areas with restrictions in the same mill villages.

$8,800 --- Rhode Island Sustainable Community Workshops
Rural Lands Coalition - Southern RI Conservation District
Coordinate developing and holding sustainable development workshops through self-diagnostic assessment of current conditions, and a comparison to the goals of the target communities stated in their Comprehensive Plans. A survey questionnaire has been developed and will be administered to town officials and board members. Follow-up will include recommendations on specific strategies and methods to retain rural character, maintain open and unfragmented green space and managing growth of communities in Scituate, Glouster, and Foster.

$10,000 --- Digital Atlas of Critical Resource Regions in Rhode Island on the World Wide Web.
University of Rhode Island - Department of Natural Resources Science
The project will compile town and watershed based digital atlas of Rhode Island's critical natural resources and make it available to anyone through the WWW (World Wide Web). Users will be able to view maps of ground water, wetlands and forests, landuse, critical habitats and other theme areas for every town and watershed in RI. (under a separate project, several towns will obtain maps clipped just for their areas and overlain on aerial town photo with mylar sheets of the resources -to become available for all RI towns - nominal fee).

$7,095 ---South Coastal Pond's New Innovative Education on Septic System Care
Salt Ponds Coalition
Municipalities in the watershed have developed, or are developing, community waste water management plans. In order for communities to succeed, they need residents support and cooperation by understanding the importance of waste water management. Project is developing educational information packages for home owners, builders, renters, realty businesses, and local officials and are to be distributed in more effective ways using municipal building officials and realtors.

$8,000 --- Drinking Water and Watershed Training Program for Volunteer Board Members, Town Officials and Staff
Providence Water Supply Board
This project is developing materials for local volunteer board members, officials and staff involved in land use decisions, to improve skills for identifying pollution associated with landuse, and evaluate cumulative impacts to local water resources and select strategies to protect local watersheds for protecting drinking water quality.

$1,000 --- Rhode Island Envirothon - High School Environmental Education
RI Resource Conservation and Development
Project will provide funding to the RI Envirothon so that participation in the program can be increased. The Envirothon is an environmental academic competition involving teams of high school students from around the State.

RHODE ISLAND 1999 GRANTS
(Awarded from 10/01/99 through 6/18/99)

PARTNERSHIPS

$1,208,460 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): Performance Partnership Grant for Water Pollution.
This grant is a Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) for Rhode Island's water programs such as: water pollution control, non-point source management, water quality, wetlands and underground injection control. Contact: Alicia Good, (401) 222-3961, Ext. 7214.

$282,500 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): Performance Partnership Grant for Waste.
Funds provide federal assistance to Rhode Island in implementing waste and pollution prevention incentives for state programs. While the waste grant was initially awarded on 12/19/96, it was amended in September, 1997 to add funds supporting a pollution prevention project to evaluate the evaporation process in metal finishing operations and to integrate pollution prevention into an ISO 14000 management system. Contact: Terry Gray, (401) 222-3872, Ext. 7100

AIR GRANTS

$568,250 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): Air Pollution Control Program.
This continuous annual grant supports on-going statewide air resources management planning for stationary and mobile sources, ambient air quality monitoring system operations and maintenance, and statewide air enforcement activities. Contact: Steve Majkut, (401) 222-2808, Ext. 7010

WATER GRANTS

$100,000 --- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): Water Quality Management Planning.
This grant is issued to states annually under the Clean Water Act. Rhode Island uses the funds to: 1) conduct chemical baseline water quality monitoring at 25 river stations in the state; 2) characterize the biological community/integrity of 40 stations using the methodology of EPA's rapid bio-assessment protocol; and 3) support the staff that supervises this work and prepares the required water quality assessments for EPA. Contact: Connie Carey, (401) 222-3961, Ext. 7239

PESTICIDES & TOXICS

$100,000 --- Rhode Island Department of Health: Asbestos.
The EPA has made available 25 percent state matching grant funds for states to enforce authorized training accreditation and certification programs for individuals engaged in asbestos inspection and abatement activities. The EPA grant fund States to conduct inspections of schools for asbestos hazards and auditing of training providers Contact: Roger Maranelli, (401) 222-2438.

SUPERFUND

$25,000 --- Technical Assistance Grant, Quonset Point / Davisville.
Grant awarded to local citizen group to fund activities associated with their involvement in the clean up of this NPL site. Typical activities include commenting on Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Studies and Remedial Design EPA Project Officer. Mike McGagh, (617) 918-1428.

$25,000 --- Technical Assistance Grant, Newport Naval Education and Training Center.
Grant awarded to local citizen group to fund activities associated with their involvement in the clean up of this NPL site. Typical activities include commenting on Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Studies and Remedial Designs. EPA Project Officer: Mike McGagh, (617) 918-1428.

LOCAL AND COMMUNITY GRANTS

Local Resource Protection Small Grants
Funded by the U S EPA & Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRCS Contacts Vicky O'Neal, (401) 822-8820 & Joe Bachand, (401) 822-8818
EPA RI Contact Rob Adler, (617) 918-1396

$8,000 --- Education of Landowners About the Benefits of Charitable Donations
Towns of North Kingstown, Narragansett, and South Kingstown
To educate and provide legal and tax consultant services to land owners to encourage the charitable donation of land or development rights to protect open space and natural resources. Use of tax incentives, such as provided for under Tax Reform Act of 1997, would give landowners added options to retain their lands and its natural values. Beyond general education, the intent of the project is to provide specific information on an individual landowner basis by professional experts in tax law or tax accounting. Approximately 40 landowners could be served, and the selection of landowners would be generally equally distributed across the three communities.

$9,460 --- Identifying Critical Lands for Conservation
University of Rhode Island - Department of Natural Resources Science
To develop a statewide inventory of critical GIS-based data for land conservation that would support community decision making for prioritizing lands for protection, allowing towns to conduct co-occurrence analyses. Data will also be extracted and presented for four communities, including Coventry, East Greenwich, Hopkinton and Exeter to use in their conservation efforts. Approximately, 12 themes or data coverages will be developed, and include agricultural lands, wetlands, river corridors, forests, RIDEM heritage dataset on critical/unique habitats. scenic inventory, TNC and Audubon lands, land trust properties, etc.

$2,102 --- Storm Watchers Project
Salt Pond Coalition
To recruit volunteers to identify potential runoff sources of bacteria in neighborhoods around the salt ponds in south coastal region. Suspected runoff sites will be located by GPS to develop an inventory of locations and mapping potential and known trouble spots of non-point sources of pollution Rain gear would be provided to volunteers who will collect samples during rain events and analyzed by URI Watershed Watch. Approximately, 20 site samples will be tested in a two-year period to verify suspected sources of contamination.

$9,000 --- Building Partnerships with Property Managers to Improve Coastal Habitat in Narragansett Bay
Save the Bay
To build on current relationships with golf course superintendents, public park managers and large land owners around the Bay, to promote, protect and restore vegetative buffer zones and to control exotic and invasive species in coastal wetlands. In the process, the project will build a network-database of coastal property owners that are actively engaged in protecting and restoring coastal habitats on their properties. Work directly one-to-one with property owners to assess conditions, and evaluate options for protecting or restoring habitat, and assist in conducting projects

$9,000 --- Rhode Island Watershed Approach Support
Southern Rhode Island Conservation District
To build local capacity and participation in community-based efforts for the protection of watersheds. The frame-work for a state-wide *Watershed Approach* is nearing completion and local participation is a key component to its success The project will organize/support a watershed-wide team, a training and support team, and localized volunteer stream teams, and will coordinate the volunteer efforts to assess how fluctuations in stream flow affects habitat in the Queens-Usquebaug Rivers sub-watershed. The project will develop a general training manual for the watershed team and compile worksheets and slide show for conducting shoreline surveys and community assessment. This effort in the Pawcatuck Watershed is initial testing ground for the *Watershed Approach.*

$7,950 --- Scituate Reservoir Stormwater Management Program in North Scituate and Clayville, RI
Northern RI Conservation District and the Providence Water Supply Board
To improve non-point source stormwater runoff quality entering the Scituate Reservoir. Runoff patterns within North Scituate and Clayville, will be mapped and evaluated, and specific systems will be selected for installing "best managements practices." Efforts will include establishing an oversight committee, gathering existing information and preparing a database/maps, identifying gaps in the information, delineating drainage areas, determining impervious surface cover, and evaluating structures and their effectiveness, and identifying potential BMPs and their locations.

$3,300 --- Natural History Survey Conference
University of Rhode Island - To support the annual Natural History Survey Conference, which draws individuals, universities, and professional ecologists, naturalists and agency personnel who seek to protect the natural resources of Rhode Island.

$9,000 — Volunteer Monitoring of Streams in Pawcatuck Watershed
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
To build a stewardship and volunteer-based monitoring effort for collecting important water quality and stream flow data in parts in the Queen River and Meadow Brook areas of the Pawcatuck region. Staff gages for water elevation will be installed and flow meters will be used for recording flow in the stream/river, and water quality samples will be taken for analysis at the University of Rhode Island labs. Volunteers for stream teams will be recruited and trained from the communities near the streams to be monitored. Involving, educating and informing the public about water quality and quantity issues are important outcomes of this project in this watershed. A technical steering committee will be organized and include local organizations, state and federal agencies, growers and others. Monitoring is expected to occur five times a year and will also be coordinated with the Water Use Data Subcommitte efforts of the PWP to assess stream habitat conditions on the Queen River for the USGS flow modeling. Data will be added to the Watershed Watch and RIDEM databases

and be reviewed in the Watershed Watch annual report on state-wide monitoring. The data will be used in RIDEM's water quality assessment for its 305(b) report.

$2,000 --- Assessment of Wetland Values and Functions - Setting Priorities for Communities' Protection Efforts.

Rhode Island Association of Wetland Scientists

To conduct an initial survey to assess the natural habitat value and function of wetlands in three communities - Hopkinton, Richmond and Coventry. Assessment will aid communities in setting priorities for land protection by ordinance, through land trust acquisitions or other means. RIAWS will inventory wetland resources on parcels identified by each town. The inventory will include 1) identification of the wetland types; 2) determination of wetland functional values (e.g. wildlife habitat, rare and endangered species habitat, public educational and recreational benefits); 3) observed unique characteristics (e.g. vernal pools, white cedar swamp); 4) description of the general condition The inventory will be based on available information including aerial photos and site visits and will be presented in tabular form organized by wetland system for use by each town in comparing and ranking wetland land parcels

Fishing Village - Galilee, Rhode Island

Photo courtesy of
Rhode Island Tourism Division
Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation

EPA New England
Customer Call Center· 888-372-7341
Web: www.epa.gov/region1

Pawcatuck River Watershed

EPA Region 1 New England

New England includes many ecosystems that by virtue of their ecological value, recreational value or proximity to large populations hold a special significance to us. EPA-New England is focusing particular attention and resources on these "special places." Working closely with our federal, state and local partners, these community-based initiatives are delivering tangible environmental improvements to these areas.

EPA Contact: Rob Adler (617) 918-1396 Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Assoc: Nina Rooks (401) 539-9017

What Makes The Pawcatuck River Watershed Special?

- Spans 194,000 acres across 14 towns in southwestern RI and southeastern CT and encompasses one-quarter of RI's land area with features remarkably rural and unspoiled natural setting.
- Home for the Narragansett Indian Tribe, RI's largest management area, and the highest concentration of turf (sod) farms in the U S.
- Region is 70% forested, and is habitat for nearly 70% of RI's globally rare species and 65% of the state's rare species and unique natural communities. With forests and large tracts of inland wetlands, the Pawcatuck supports a high diversity of species, often sensitive to human disturbance

Why Does The Pawcatuck River Watershed Need Special Attention?

- Among the fastest developing regions in New England Continued fragmentation, suburbanization, and nonpoint source disturbance pose long-term threats to critical natural resources, farms and the 'country way of life '
- Pawcatuck aquifer supplies all of the region's drinking water and is an EPA-federally designated 'sole source aquifer.'

- Development pressures and water withdrawal from streams for turf farm and golf course irrigation threaten the quality and quantity of water resources and riparian stream habitats.

What is the Pawcatuck Watershed Initiative and the PWP?

The initiative was launched in 1996 by several environmental and farm organizations, state and federal agencies and other stakeholders. It established the Pawcatuck Watershed Partnership (PWP) to.

- Improve local decision making to address development pressure.
- Preserve farm, forest and open space, and to protect water quality, habitat and critical environmental resources
- Sustain business vitality, farming and tourism
- Implement a comprehensive approach to watershed management across fourteen towns, two states, and two tribal government

What Partnership Progress has been Made?

- Partnership meetings since 1997 have focused on water use and availability, watershed characterization, outreach and education.
- Distributed watershed report in 1998.
- EPA, NRCS, and RIDEM have cooperatively funded the watershed coordinator since 1997
- EPA funded nine community-based resource protection projects such as mapping, conservation and open space planning, and dune stabilization were selected by the Partnership

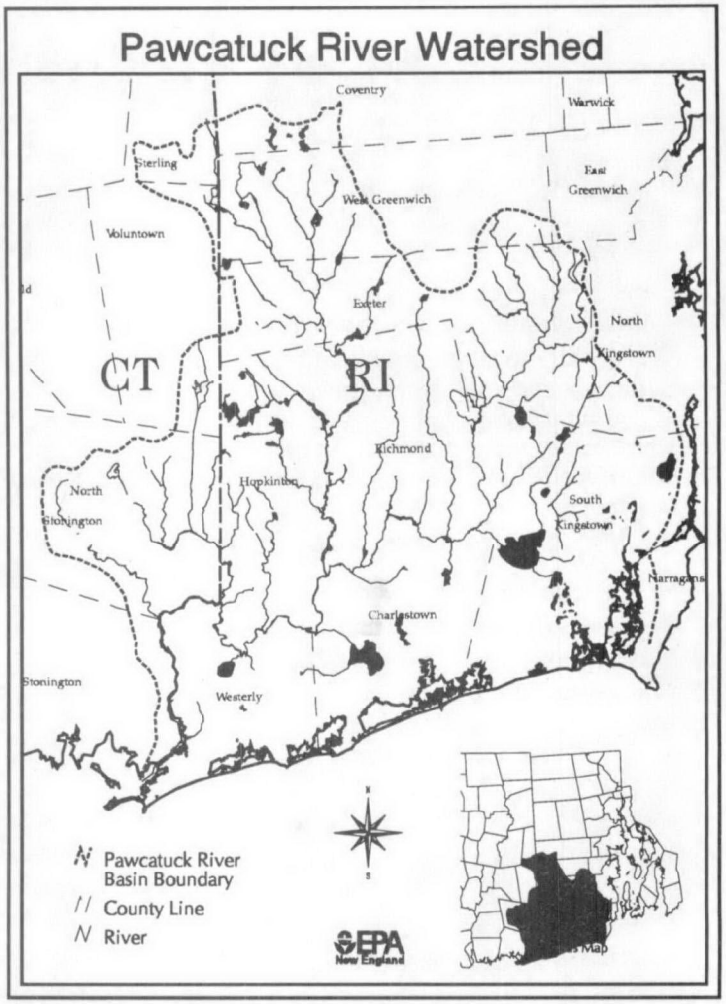
- EPA is funding critical wetland habitat projects, including local technical assistance.
- Partnership hosts a weekly "Watershed News" radio talk show.

What are the Major Actions Planned for 1998-99?

- Undertake, in a pilot sub-basin, an assessment of water flow and habitat conditions, and the impacts from irrigation and drinking water withdrawals.
- Oversee 'sustainable development' funds given to DEM/Rural Lands Coalition to develop tools for communities to manage growth - sprawl.
- Educate local boards and officials on watershed resources, and aid in their growth management, development and drinking water protection decisions.

Who are the Partners?

EPA-New England • Southern Rhode Island Conservation District • Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association • 14 Towns in Pawcatuck Watershed • RI Dept. of Environmental Management • CT Dept. of Environmental Protection • Rural Lands Coalition • Salt Pond Coalition • The Nature Conservancy • USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service • US Geologic Survey • URI Cooperative Extension Service • Trout Unlimited • Audubon Society of RI • Narragansett Indian Tribe • URI Coastal Resources Center • URI Watershed Watch • Mashantucket Pequot Tribe • Rhode Island Geographic Information Systems • The Rhode Island Natural History Survey



Note: EPA-New England offers businesses and municipalities information and assistance to improve compliance with environmental laws and be better stewards of their local environment. Please call 1-888-EPA-7341 if you would like to learn how EPA can help you.

EPA - New England, Region 1

1 Congress Street

Suite 1100

Boston, MA 02114-2023

CITY OVERVIEW

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Originally founded in 1683, Providence is one of the oldest cities in New England.. A city of approximately 150,000 people, Providence is located in southeastern New England, at the head of Narragansett Bay on the Atlantic sea coast. The city is 45 minutes from Boston and 3 1/2 hours from New York. Accessibility to excellent transportation facilities, including the Port of Providence, with its 40-foot channel and 27 public and private docks, and a high concentration of trained workers makes it Rhode Island's major industrial center. In fact, Providence is once of the major commercial, financial, and industrial centers in New England, with an economy based on a foundation of manufacturing and service oriented enterprises. The manufacture of jewelry, which is shipped worldwide, establishes Providence as one of the largest jewelry centers in the United States. Recently, new modern office buildings, apartment buildings, and a civic center with sports, recreational and exhibit facilities were constructed. The city is host to superior academic institutions including Brown University, the seventh oldest American college, and the Rhode Island School of Design, founded in 1887 and recognized as one of the nation's foremost art schools. Providence has a diverse, ethnic population that is on the rise. From 1980-1990 the Hispanic population in the city increased over 175%. Providence suffers from considerable income disparity in terms of property values. In Providence, the amount of taxable property value is only $36,000 per capita. By comparison, the amount of taxable property is Jamestown, RI is $136,000.

URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

Over the last few years, Providence has suffered from a significant decline in urban populations due to poor environmental and economic conditions within city neighborhoods. Providence residents experience lead poisoning, asthma, and other chronic illnesses due to a wide variety of environmental hazards including, poor indoor and ambient air quality, polluted rivers and wetlands, and contaminated urban vacant lots. One in every three children in the City of Providence has elevated blood lead levels, and lead poisoning is the most common childhood disease. 34,389 Rhode Island children under age 6 were screened for lead in 1995. One in every five children screened had a blood lead level greater than 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood — enough to cause learning disabilities, hyperactivity, antisocial behavior, attention deficit disorder, hearing and speech impediments, and loss of intelligence. African-American children on average have higher blood lead levels in all age, urban status, income and educational categories. Furthermore, more than half of all housing units in Rhode Island have potential lead paint hazards. The population density of Providence ranges between 8,800 and 11,000 persons per square mile of land area, and there has been a -1.1% change in available housing units. Ozone levels in Rhode Island have exceeded EPA standards during recent years due to air masses from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. The Woonasquatucket River is the only river in the state that has a fish advisory due to high levels of dioxin, PCBs, and high bacteria levels after heavy rains. Providence has over 4,000 residential vacant lots, each with significant environmental and public health risks to urban residents.

UEI Community Partnerships

Environmental Protection Agency * Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management * City of Providence, Office of Environmental Affairs and Department of Planning * Woonasquatucket River * Childhood Lead Action Project * Smart Growth * Keep Providence Beautiful * Save The Bay * Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy * Olneyville Housing Corporation * Providence Environmental Strike Team and Environmental Court * Environmental Diversity Education Forum * The Providence Plan * Roger Williams Park Zoo * City Year * Brown University, Center for Environmental Studies * Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE) * South East Asian Economic Development Center * Youth In Action * RI Department of Health *

1999 – 2000 UEI Providence Goals

- Urban Vacant Lots: Continue transferring urban vacant lots under the Special Vacant Lot for $1.00 Program to productive use. Develop strategies to secure resources to help mitigate risks from lead contamination to future owners of vacant lots to minimize risk of childhood lead poisoning from contaminated soil.

- Increase Community Capacity Building & Improve The Quality of Life for Urban Residents: Expand efforts to form coalitions of community-based organizations and local neighbors through the Environmental Diversity Education Forum and host a Livable Providence 2000 conference for local residents to share ideas for improving the quality of life for local residents.

- Focus on Woonasquatucket River: Develop and distribute multi-lingual community education materials to inform local residents about environment and public health risks from dioxin, PCBs, and bacteria contamination.

- Lead Poisoning Prevention: Play an active role in implementing the recommendations from the Mayor's Safe Housing Lead Task Force and increase information dissemination and available resources for reducing health risks for children in Rhode Island.

UEI Providence City Program Manager

EPA Region 1's UEI program has full-time City Program Managers to service the urban communities of Boston, Providence, and Hartford. Each City Manager serves as a resource to a broad range of community stakeholders including local residents, environmental groups, non-profit organizations, academia, industry, local businesses, medical services, local and state government, and other federal agencies.

Please feel free to contact Providence's City Program Manager to learn more about the UEI program services, grant program, active projects, or to ask any questions you may have.

Kristi N. Rea
Providence City Program Manager
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Upper Narragansett Bay
Woonasquatucket River

EPA New England
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EPA New England Office

New England includes many ecosystems that by virtue of their ecological value, recreational value or proximity to large populations hold a special significance to us. EPA-New England is focusing particular attention and resources on these "special places." Working closely with our federal, state and local partners, these community-based initiatives are delivering tangible environmental improvements to these areas.

EPA Contacts Margherita Pryor (617) 918-1597 and Kristi Rea (617) 918-1595

What Makes The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Special?

- Once the life line of power to the many textile mills, today the Woonasquatucket River has fallen into neglect The upper half of the river is primarily residential, and the lower half is urban and heavily industrialized. In August 1998, the Woonasquatucket River received national recognition and distinction when it was recognized as an American Heritage River

- The river is the focal point of revitalization efforts in downtown Providence A "greenway" is targeted to promote recreation and restoration along its banks

Why Does The Woonasquatucket River Need Special Attention?

- The Woonasquatucket River is a priority waterbody. In June 1996, elevated dioxin levels were detected in fish and eels In response, a "catch and release" advisory was issued by the RI Department of Health
- Water and sediment sampling was conducted in October 1997 and dioxin contamination was detected at all seven sampling sites The "catch-and-release" policy for fishing in the Woonasquatucket River was reaffirmed and residents were warned

What is the Long Term Goal?

TO PRESERVE AND RESTORE THE USES OF THESE RIVERS INCLUDING FISHING, SWIMMING AND GOOD QUALITY HABITAT.

What Partnership Progress Has Been Made?

- Found more than 50 pipes flowing in dry weather along the length of the Woonasquatucket, inspected 14 industrial facilities for potentially unpermitted discharges to the sewer system, found four facilities requiring permits, and issued a notice of violation for discharging without a permit
- Reduced public exposure to risks from high levels of dioxin in sediments near Centerdale Manor and the Allendale dam by fencing off access and conducting removal actions, beginning long-term cleanup actions, advising the public on safety issues, and expanding fish consumption warnings to minority Hispanic and Asian communities
- Established health and education subcommittee to advise on risk communication issues and conduct comprehensive public outreach/education to Woonasquatucket River communities
- Re-issued the Smithfield wastewater treatment plant permit to incorporate nutrient limits
- Provided funding for the Providence Plan to support the River Ranger program

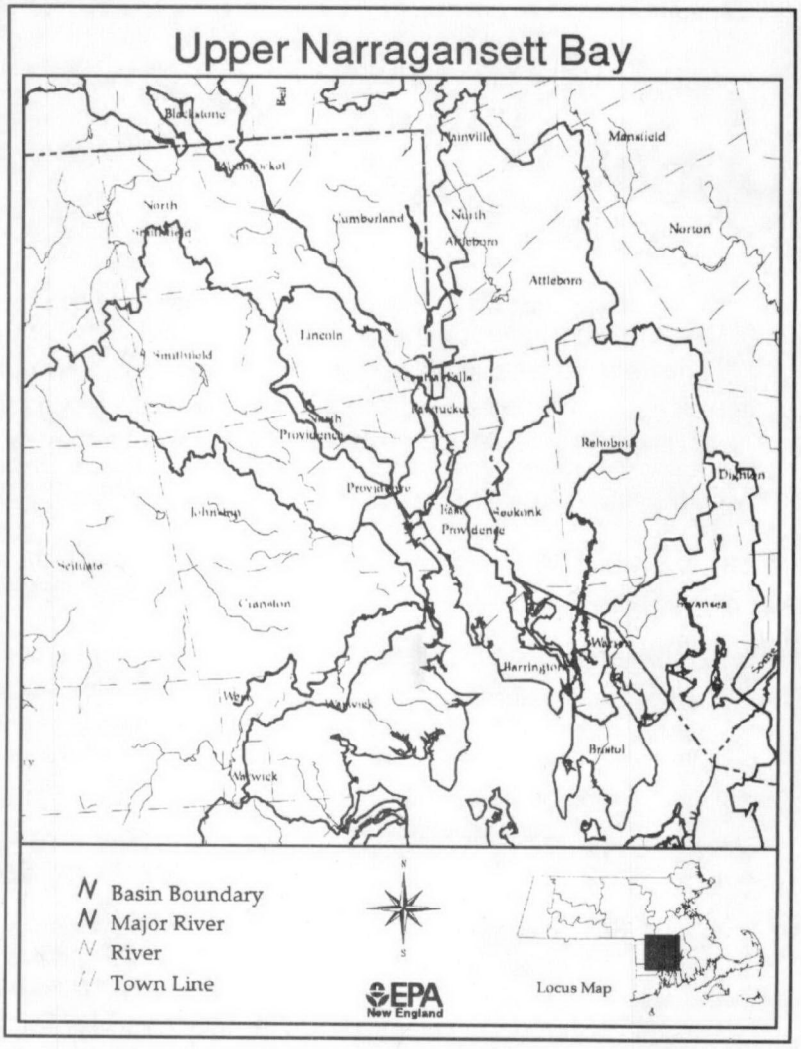
What Actions are Planned for 2000?

- Document pipe ownership, identify sources of pollutants entering the river, eliminate unpermitted discharges, and report to the public on the results of the river reconnaissance
- Select best option for removing contaminated soil and buried drums from the Centerdale Manor site, determine whether/how to proceed with repairing the Allendale Dam

- Continue support for the health and education subcommittee to develop tools for better public outreach
- Facilitate community input for developing and articulating goals and priorities to guide federal agency efforts as part of the American Heritage River program

Who Are The Partners?

EPA New England • The Providence Plan • Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management • Rhode Island Department of Transportation • Rhode Island Department of Health • National Park Service • Army Corps of Engineers • Narragansett Bay Commission • Woonasquatucket River Watershed Coalition • U.S. Geological Service • Olneyville Housing Corporation • Environmental Diversity Education Forum • The Urban League of Rhode Island • Save the Bay • The Audubon Society of Rhode Island • City of Providence, Office of Neighborhood Environmental Affairs and Department of Planning • Socio-Economic Development Center for South East Asians • Northern Rhode Island Conservation District • City of North Providence • Club Neopolsi Creations



Note: EPA-New England offers businesses and municipalities information and assistance to improve compliance with environmental laws and be better stewards of their local environment. Please call 1-888-EPA-7341 if you would like to learn how EPA can help you.

EPA - New England, Region 1

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The Ledges - Rhode Island

Photo courtesy of the
Rhode Island Tourism Division
Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation

EPA-NEW ENGLAND RESOURCES

EPA-New England Customer Call Center

We now have Information Specialists ready to answer your questions concerning New England's environment and environmental issues. Please call from 8am to 6pm, Monday through Friday: **1-888-372-7341** in New England and/or **1-617-918-1111** if calling from outside of New England.

EPA-New England Library

The EPA Region I Library, New England is part of the 28 member EPA Library Network established to make environmental information and resources more accessible to the public. A multi-media approach includes materials on air, water, solid and hazardous waste pollution and the corresponding control and treatment technologies; pesticides and toxic substances and related environmental and health effects; environmental laws, regulations and policies both federal and state. The Library is open to the public via phone, fax, email and for onsite use of the collections. Internet and CD ROM access are available for onsite users to identify reports, books, guidance documents and articles on all aspects of the environment. Three examples of available publications are:

1999 State of the New England Environment

"This annual *State of the New England Environment* report has two aims. First, to present to the people of New England a picture of the current status of their environment: its present state, and the threats it faces. And second, to show what we at EPA are doing to meet those threats, and how we are making progress towards smarter, cleaner and cheaper environmental protection for the citizens of our region." - *1999 State of the New England Environment*

Watershed Resource Guide

"This easy to follow guide offers the reader access to resources in the areas of Watershed Planning and Management, Drinking Water Protection, volunteer Monitoring, Controlling Non-Point Source Pollution, Habitat, and Resources for Environmental Educators. Whether you are a city or town official, member of an environmental or civic organization, business owner or concerned citizen, we encourage you to learn about your watershed, stay informed on issues that impact it, and take action to protect and improve it. In each category you will find a short list of useful documents with a brief description. Resources are printed publications which are available on the world wide web where noted, or by calling our toll free customer service hotline at: 1-800-EPA-7341." - *Watershed Resource Guide, April 1999*

1997 Annual Report On Air Quality in New England

This latest report on air quality in New England was published in July 1998 and represents 1997 annual air quality information for all states in New England. "The majority of the data included in this report were submitted to EPA by the states from their ambient monitoring networks in accordance with 40CFR 58 The only data from industrial monitors which have been included are from the Massachusetts Industrial Network, EPA-required networks in New Hampshire and Maine's licensing program which supplements the state network. This report is intended to list potential non-attainment areas for planning purposes. The majority of data used have been evaluated and verified by EPA; however, for the areas listed as non-attainment, the data may require further evaluation by both EPA and the states. This report reflects the status of the AIRS database as of April 1998." - *1997 Annual Report on Air Quality in New England*

For information about the above publications or about EPA-NE Library and it's extensive resources, call toll free only in New England: **1-888-372-5427;** phone: **(617) 918-1990;** Fax. **(617) 918-1992**; email: **library-reg1@epa.gov** or write: EPA Region I Library, 1 Congress Street - Suite 1100 Lib, Boston, MA 02114-2023; Internet. **http://www.epa.gov/region01/oarm/index.html**

EPA-New England Web Page: **www.epa.gov/region01**
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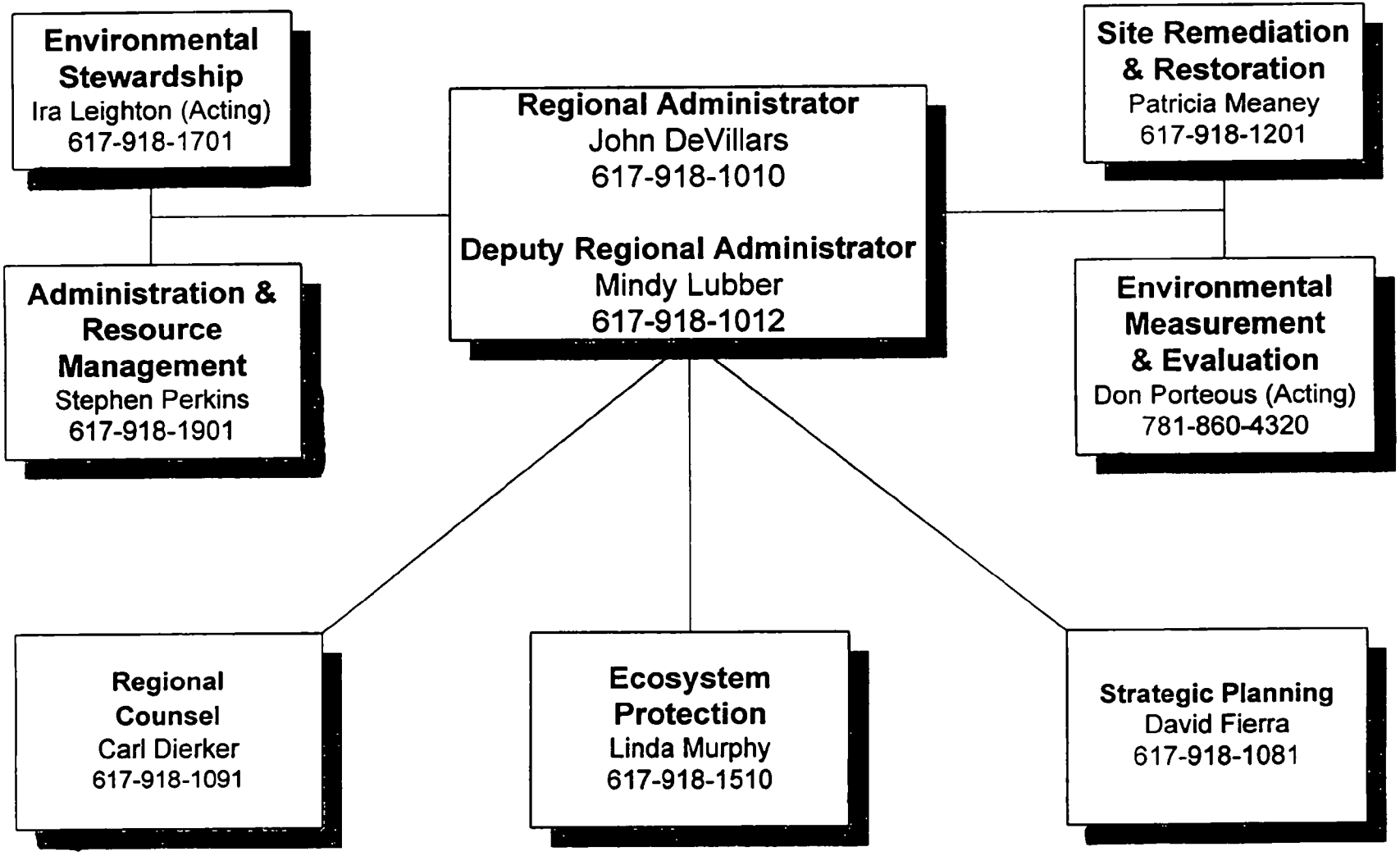
EPA - Region 1
New England



December 14, 1998

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RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Mailing List / Comments Form

If you want to get on our mailing list for the next issue of our Directory, please fill in the information below The next updated directory will be for the upcoming fiscal years, 2000 - 2001. Please mail or fax (617-918-2064) this completed form to Al Ku'ahi Wong, U.S Environmental Protection Agency - New England Region (CRI), One Congress Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02114-2023 From time to time we may send out special mailings on specific environmental issues Please indicate if you would like to receive this information and more importantly, the topic(s) you are interested in We welcome your comments

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