

MERCER COUNTY



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2018

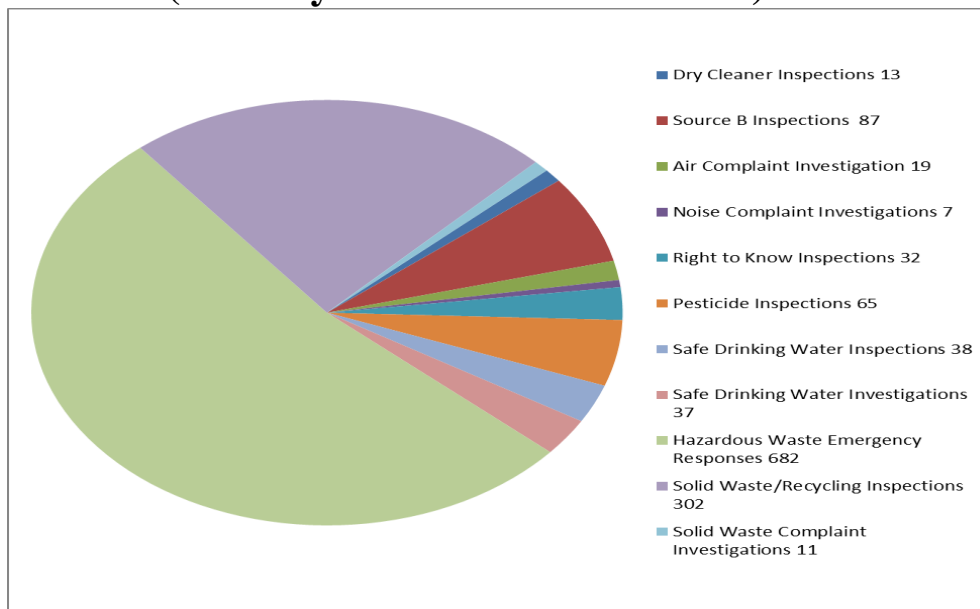
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Mercer County Division of Public Health
Submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
April 30, 2018

Purpose and Authority

The Mercer County Environmental Health Assessment and Improvement Plan has been developed by the Mercer County Division of Public Health (MCDPH) CEHA Agency to identify the most salient environmental issues within Mercer County and to propose a plan to address these issues for Fiscal year 2017- 2018. The MCDPH-CEHA Agency is a county environmental health program that derives authority pursuant to New Jersey Statues Annotated NJSA 26:3A2-21 *et seq.* and is the certified county agency for the provision of environmental health services within Mercer County under the auspices of the County Environmental Health Act (CEHA), to support the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

In 2004 the Mercer County Executive, Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the Clerk to the Board authorized Mercer County CEHA Program to support and enforce the following NJDEP Programs: Community Education, HAZMAT and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear & Explosive (CBRNE) Emergency Response, along with Enforcement of Air, Noise, Water, Solid Waste, School Chemical Waste Management, Right to Know, and Pesticides programs. Through inter-local agreement collaboration, the MCDPH-CEHA Agency, three (3) local HAZMAT teams and the Mercer County Improvement Authority (MCIA), environmental health services are provided to the residents of Mercer County. In 2011 the MCDPH-CEHA Agency adopted Ordinance 2011-1 that requires Mercer County Emergency Response Cost Recovery Ordinance to establish standard procedures and provisions to recover the cost of responses to hazardous materials, emergency spills, and situations resulting from unpermitted discharge of hazardous waste from the responsible party in accordance with the County Environmental Health Program, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:3A2-21 *et seq.*, as per Ordinance No. 2005-1 adopted March 10, 2005.

Calendar YEAR 2017 CEHA Programs (January 2017 – December 2017)



Community Background

Mercer County is located in central New Jersey, between New York City, and Philadelphia. It is comprised of 225 square miles with 12 municipalities that range from rural countryside to urban neighborhoods. In 2017, the U.S. Census Bureau reported Mercer County to have an estimated population of 374,733. Mercer County is the 12th largest County in New Jersey. In 2017 Mercer County experienced a population increase of 0.29 %, a rate that is in balance with the State of New Jersey as a whole. With a population density of 1,632.2 persons per square mile, Mercer County exhibits a higher population density than that of New Jersey’s average of 1,195.5 persons per square mile. Between March 2016 and March 2017, Mercer County had a 2.7 % growth in private non-farm employment, surpassing the state average of 1.2%. Median Mercer County household income in 2017 was \$77,650 an average higher than the state median of \$72,062. However this greater median household income is offset by a higher poverty rate of 11.2 %, as compared with the state average of 10.8 %.

Mercer County is linked to other major cities and business hubs through its extensive transportation infrastructure. Commuter rail service, light rail service, Trenton-Mercer Airport, Interstates 95, 195 and 295, as well as Highway Routes 1, 27, 29, 31, 130, and 206 make Mercer County extremely attractive to residents and some world renowned businesses including pharmaceutical, research and health sciences industries. Mercer County is also home to Princeton University, Rider University, The College of New Jersey, Thomas Edison State University, and Mercer County Community College, representing a diverse academic culture. The county is also home to several of New Jersey’s Revolutionary War historical sites in addition to several recreational locations including four public golf courses, the Thunder baseball team at Arm & Hammer Park, Cure Insurance Arena, several shopping malls, movie theaters, and many parks. With its diversity of residential choices, educational facilities, employment opportunities, entertainment choices, historical and scenic areas, Mercer County is an extremely desirable place to live, work, and visit.



Personnel and Equipment

MCDPH Staffing

The Mercer County Division of Public Health staff includes one Health Officer, one CEHA Coordinator/Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS), one Sr. CEHA Environmental Health Specialist, three LINC staff members, one full-time secretary, and one part-time support staff. The Mercer County Division of Public Health (via Interlocal Service

Agreements) has the support of the three County HAZMAT Teams (Hamilton, City of Trenton, West Windsor), and Mercer County Improvement Authority (MCIA) Solid Waste and Recycling employees. Additional support has been established through a collaborative professional network with 8 Local Health Departments (LHD) within Mercer County. The LHD Registered Environmental Health Specialist have an ongoing referral system in place to achieve compliance assistance for various environmental health related issues that impact the Mercer County community. These issues include, but are not limited to, indoor/outdoor air quality, Idling, Solid Waste/Recycling, Pesticide Services, Water Quality, Noise, HAZMAT and Emergency Preparedness Services.

CEHA Equipment

Mercer County CEHA currently maintains and updates a variety of field equipment necessary to conduct annual and complaint based compliance and enforcement inspections. MCDPH-CEHA Agency conducts field inspections, investigations, and 24/7 emergency responses with two Hybrid Ford Escape vehicles equipped with personal protective equipment. Air monitoring equipment includes wind monitoring equipment for Air Program Investigation. Additional field equipment includes two PID (percethlyne indicator detector) Units as required by NJDEP for enforcement of leaking Percethlyne (Perc) Dry Cleaning Machines. CEHA also utilizes smart cell phones, digital cameras with video recording capabilities, laptops, and GPS units to increase timeliness and efficiency of CEHA field inspections. Mercer County CEHA has one Quest Technology Type 2 noise meter to perform noise investigations, as per NJDEP. Mercer County CEHA has established an agreement with the local health departments to share noise meter equipment. This will ensure that each department will have access to the noise meter, at all times, enhancing response time and better assisting with compliance enforcement.

Mercer County Planning Office continues to provide technical support through its mapping and geocoding GIS equipment to electronically update all Mercer County dry cleaners using percethlyne, Mercer County PNC water systems; Mercer County closed landfills, and schools that participated in the School Lab Chemical Compliance Project. In 2013 Mercer County CEHA decreased paper filing using a bulk scanner. In 2013, Mercer County CEHA began mandatory electronic data entry into the New Jersey Environmental Management System (NJEMS). Mercer County currently continues to maintain this high efficiency paperless record keeping system by continuing to enter the Air and Idling incident complaints for Air and Idling Program. In addition, all Pesticide, Water, and Solid Waste Programs inspection and enforcement documents are being entered into NJEMS.

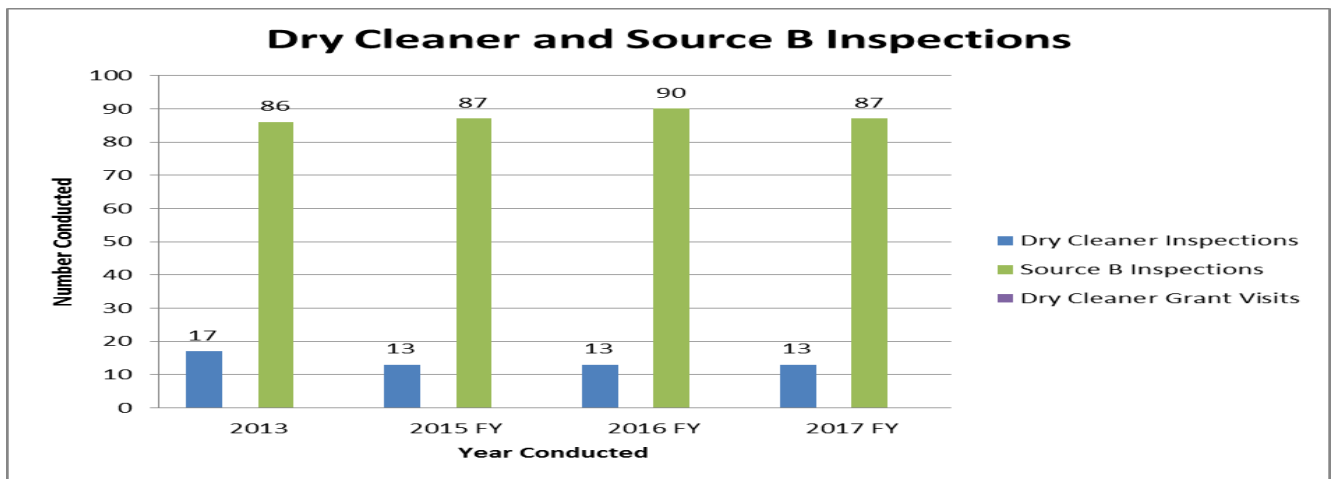
Environmental Issues and Program Goals

Clean Air Program

A priority of the program in 2017 is clean air throughout Mercer County, and in accordance with the State, will continue to meet the national Clean Air standards for ozone and other pollutants. MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to administer an Air Pollution Control Program pursuant

to authority delegated by the Commissioner of NJDEP under the County Environmental Health Act (CEHA).

The MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to investigate all air pollution complaints received from citizens and NJDEP. These investigations will include, but are not limited to, open burning, odors, particulates, idling diesel vehicles, air permits, and certificates. The MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to perform annual inspections of delegated minor and B source facilities for compliance with the New Jersey Air Pollution Control Code, and to enforce state laws and/or regulations. The MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to focus on the completion of annual routine compliance monitoring and enforcement inspections for dry cleaners, source B boilers, emergency generators, paint shops, and statewide diesel vehicle idling sweeps, and complaints as delegated by NJDEP.



Outdoor Wood Boiler



Emergency Generator

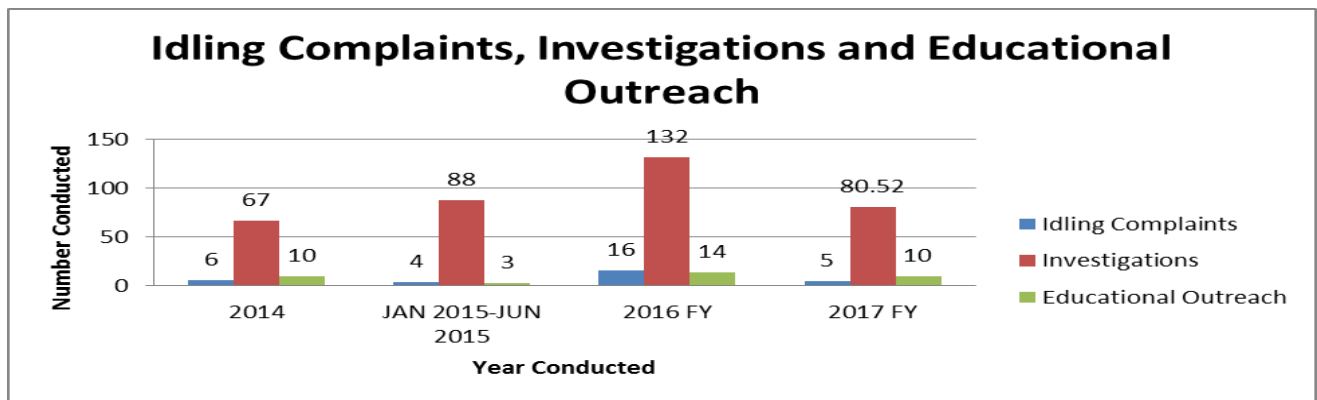


Anti-Idling Pilot Program

Since 2013 Mercer County received NJDEP approval to participate in NJDEP Anti-Idling Enforcement Project and continues into FY 2018. This project focuses on reducing unnecessary idling of diesel truck and school buses to no more than three consecutive minutes if the vehicle is not in motion, as per N.J.A.C.7:27-14 for diesel vehicles. CEHA Investigators monitor if diesel

truck drivers and school bus drivers are complying with NJDEP anti-idling rules. Enforcement actions include issuance of penalties to violating Commercial vehicles and property owners: First violation = \$250, Second violation = \$500, third and subsequent violations = \$1000. Educational materials pertaining to reducing the public’s exposure to harmful diesel fumes were distributed to diesel facility owners, and school bus owners/operators. Free No Idling Zone signs are issued to facilities that sign the NJDEP’s No-Idling Pledge through NJDEP www.stopthesoot.com. Eligible diesel vehicle owners are encouraged to submit a compliance plan to NJDEP to be considered for reimbursement to install retrofit equipment.

In the FY2017, Mercer County continued after-hour compliance investigations/field stops as required by NJDEP CEHA grant agreement. Between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017, Mercer County completed 80.52 after-hour compliance investigation/field stops and 5 complaint referral investigations that were received through the NJDEP Hotline, NJDEP Anti-Idling Program, and/or citizen complaints. Within the FY2017, Mercer CEHA initiated 16 Anti-Idling Education Outreach Programs at 16 different summer camps or educational facilities, reaching over 224 children within Mercer County. Mercer County CEHA was re-approved to receive Anti-Idling funding for FY2018. Anti-Idling Enforcement Project continues to include after-hour compliance investigations/field stops, along with anti-idling outreach educational programs, at local health fairs, summer camps, and educational facilities.



Clean Drinking Water Program

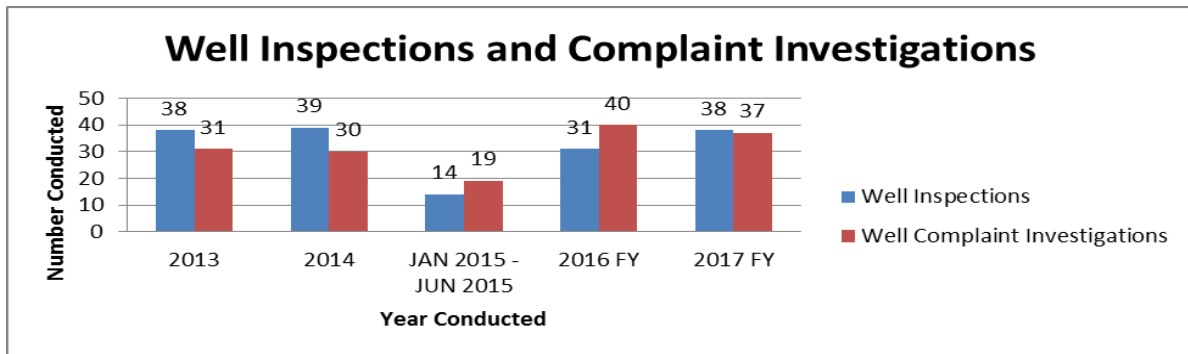
Drinking water within the County is derived from private and public water distribution companies, or private and public wells. Communities that are located in the more rural areas of the county are often dependent on wells for their drinking water source. The MCDPH-CEHA Agency is responsible for any public non-community (PNC) water sources located within the county. Drinking water wells that serve 25 or more persons for at least 60 days per calendar year are classified by the NJDEP as PNC systems. PNC systems are required to conduct various levels of water quality analysis each year to ensure the quality and quantity of their drinking water supply.

Since 2006, the MCDPH-CEHA Agency has conducted routine inspections for PNC sources. In FY2017, Mercer County completed 38 routine inspections, exceeding the 28 requirements. In general, facilities were in compliance with the State Safe Drinking Water Act regulations. In the

event that a system does not test for required perimeters, or the maximum contaminant levels (MCLS) are exceeded, Mercer County takes immediate action to ascertain the severity of the violation. When standards are not met, the primary goal of the County is to bring the system back into compliance, ensuring the safety of the potable water source. Mercer County then will review all non-compliant issues, enforce violations and issue appropriate penalties with approval from NJDEP. In FY2017, 37 MCL violations were investigated by Mercer County.

Recently, several inspections were the result of events occurring at existing facilities that were not previously registered as PNCs. Mercer County continues to diligently work with all local health departments to identify, locate and bring into compliance all previously existing and unregistered PNC's. In addition, municipal health departments, as part of their Certificate of Occupancy procedures, are now notifying the County each time they receive a request to install, modify, or change usage of any public well water system. Mercer County will continue to coordinate efforts with the local municipalities to establish a County-wide well water database.

The Mercer County is also moving forward to further ensure surface water quality. Currently the MCDPH-CEHA Agency investigates all surface water complaints that are referred to by the NJDEP Incident Hotline. Complaints that are received directly from residents or local municipalities are rerouted to the NJDEP hotline so that they may be logged in and follow appropriate procedures. Investigations in the past have led to a greater understanding of surface water concerns within the County. Recent flooding events have prompted the County to revisit some of the existing storm water runoff and septic management plans to further ensure the quality and quantity of safe surface water sources.



Potable Drinking Water Well



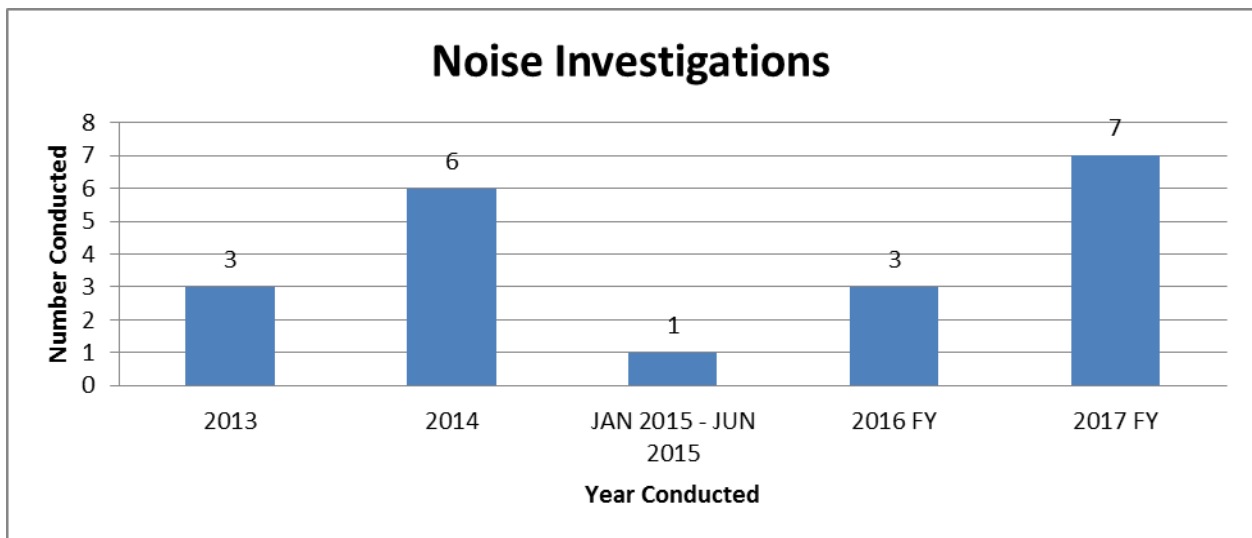
Emergency Water Distribution



Noise Control Program

Excessive noise is a concern for Mercer County residents. To address this concern the MCDPH-CEHA Agency investigates and enforces all noise complaints received in accordance with the State Model Noise Code (N.J.A.C. 7:29). Complaints come from residents directly, as referrals from the local municipalities or through the NJDEP Incident Hotline. Complaints are first validated with the complainant to establish the nature of the concern. If the complaint falls under the responsibility of the MCDPH-CEHA Agency, the agency then establishes an appropriate date and time to conduct an investigation. Investigations may be conducted during the work day, during late evening, and over the weekend to ensure that the most egregious level is captured and recorded.

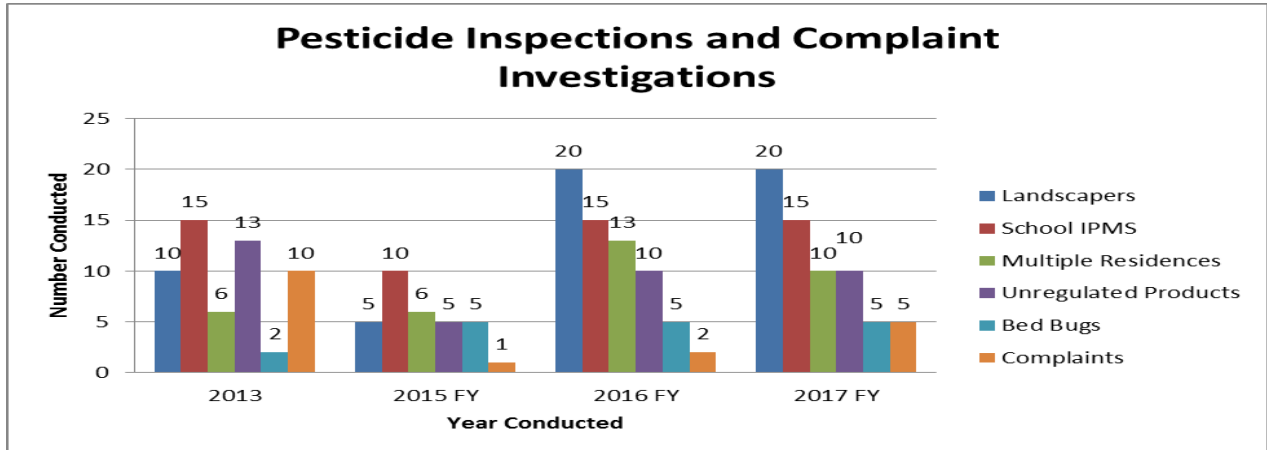
In the past six years Mercer County has investigated 27 noise complaints. Successful collaboration with community and local municipal stakeholders has effectively reduced the amount of non-applicable investigations by the MCDPH department. Those that consisted of residential-to-residential noise concerns were able to be effectively referred back to their originating municipality. Citizens are still encouraged to call the County to determine the nature of the noise issue that they may be experiencing. To date, MCDPH continues to provide outreach assistance to the local municipal health departments and concerned citizens, while actively investigating all noise complaints. The MCDPH-CEHA Agency continues to certify two noise control officers and maintain an annually calibrated noise meter. Training and education for the county agency, local municipalities and residents continues to be integral in controlling unwanted and non-compliant noise sources.



Community Health and Safety Outreach Program

In 2011, the MCDPH-CEHA Agency started its first year with the Pesticide Control Pilot Program. This inspection based program provides outreach and education within the community on compliant usage, storage and record maintenance of licensed pesticide products. Fiscal Year 2017 program activities included (20) commercial landscapers, (15) school IPM, (10) multiple family residences, (10) unregistered products, (5) bedbugs, and (5) investigation coverage. Inspections focus on pre-selected facilities, random observations, and can be complaint driven.

Enforcement of regulations under the NJDEP Pesticide Control Program, N.J.A.C. 7:30-1 et seq. may result in required facility compliance assistance, program violations, and/or potential penalties. Environmental health education is the main role of this program; however the MCDPH-CEHA Agency will enforce all regulations needed to bring facilities into compliance and to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all residents.



Chemicals for Pesticide Applications



Landscaper Pesticide Equipment



Community Right-To-Know Program

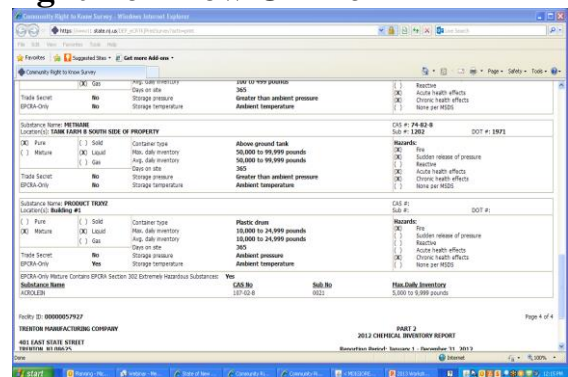
MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to participate in NJDEP Community Right to Know (CRTK) Pilot Project to assist the NJDEP in improving compliance among facilities required to file annual CRTK surveys. In FY2017 the MCDPH-CEHA Agency investigated 32 employers identified on a list provided by the NJDEP. The list indicates which employers did not file mandatory electronic CRTK surveys for reporting year 2016. The MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to issue Notices of Violations (NOV's) to non-compliant facilities and issue penalties in accordance with New Jersey Workers and Community Right to Know Act (N.J.S.A.34:5A-1 et seq.), and the New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:1G et seq.). The MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue monitoring CRTK compliancy for mandatory submittal of electronic reports as per NJDEP Office of Pollution Prevention and Right to Know.

In addition to Community Right-To-Know Program, MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to maintain surveys and records in a central file as the County Lead Agency for New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) Right to Know Program (RTK). In accordance with provisions of The Worker and Community Right to Know Act (N.J.S.A. 34:5A-section 12) and The Worker and Community Right to Know Act Rules (N.J.A.C. 8:59-section 7.2), the following documents are now available at www.nj.gov/health/rtkweb: Right to Know Hazardous Substance List and Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets. MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to work with NJDHSS to enforce, codes, rules, and regulations relating to compliance among facilities required to file RTK Surveys. The MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to provide RTK trainings, outreach visits, telephone interactions, and distribute educational RTK materials.

Right To Know MSDS



Right To Know Online



Solid Waste Program

The Solid Waste Program achieves and maintains the safe management of waste in an environmentally sound manner, ensuring exposure to environmental risks are controlled and minimized. Solid Waste activities include investigation of all solid waste complaints received from citizens, local health departments, commercial businesses and the NJDEP. Consistency with the NJDEP Solid Waste Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is a priority for Mercer County's Solid Waste Program. Attaining uniform enforcement among the State, County and Municipal solid waste programs will be a goal of CEHA solid waste initiatives. The Mercer County Improvement Authority (MCIA) has been selected to continue to manage the County Solid Waste Program, with the guidance and assistance of MCDPH-CEHA Agency staff.

In the FY2017 MCIA and MCDPH-CEHA Agency staff will conduct routine compliance monitoring inspections of Solid Waste Facilities (Class A, Class B, Exempt Class B, Exempt Class C, Certificate to Authority to Operate/Beneficial Use Determination, Convenience Centers, Department of Public Works, and Transfer Stations) as deemed necessary by the NJDEP. Mercer CEHA will continue to verify activity at these sites and provide an update to the NJDEP Solid Waste Program. MCDPH-CEHA and NJDEP Agency Investigators will continue conducting annual compliance and enforcement inspection at the MCIA Transfer Station.

Exempt Class ‘B’ – Wood Chips



Exempt Class ‘C’ – Composting



MCIA will continue to conduct solid waste flow inspections and investigate solid waste haulers to ensure enforcement with all applicable solid waste rules, regulations, and programs while utilizing the enhanced enforcement authority, capabilities, and penalties provided by the County Health Office, CEHA work plan, and CEHA statutory authority. MCIA will continue to deter, decrease, and cease solid waste haulers from diverting waste from the Mercer County Solid Waste Flow System by entering into settlement agreements. Through these agreements, penalties are paid, compliance with applicable laws is enforced, and the Mercer County/MCIA Solid Waste Management Plan objectives and goals are achieved. Fines and penalty monies collected by MCIA are used to enhance further solid waste program activities.

Responding to citizen complaints will become a core component of the CEHA objective. To achieve this, the MCIA and MCDPH-CEHA Agency staff will conduct any and all necessary appropriate training for all applicable staff, employees, and agents of MCIA regarding CEHA solid waste enforcement requirements, methods, and plans. MCIA currently manages a countywide curbside recycling program for the majority of County residents. To further promote recycling, the MCIA will initiate inspections and conduct thorough surveys of all relevant Mercer County businesses and schools pursuant to the CEHA work plan; which will ensure compliance by these entities with all applicable state and federal laws. This initiative is meant to foster a decrease and discouragement of illegal dumping and promote the three “R’s” (Reuse, Recycle, and Reduce) of solid waste materials in Mercer County.

Residential Recycling



Solid Waste Transfer Facility



MCIA is also responsible for implementing a countywide Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste Collection Program. This program has seen a steady increase in popularity over the years and serves approximately 4500 vehicles annually. MCIA continues conducting five events in Fiscal Year 2017. In conjunction with the CEHA School Chemical Compliance Management Program, an alternate drop off day has been added for participating high schools on the Friday before each scheduled Household Hazardous Waste Day. Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste are collected from 42 participating schools in Mercer County.

Household Hazardous Waste



Electronics Waste Collection



HAZMAT/Emergency Response

HAZMAT/Emergency Response in Mercer County will aid in minimizing unacceptable human health and ecological risks due to direct exposure from hazardous substances and other potentially harmful agents. Natural resources will be managed to protect the public from floods, fires, and storms. Reduction in the frequency and impact of serious hazardous material incidents occurring within Mercer County will occur by improving the response capabilities, training, knowledge, and cooperation with industry.

The MCDPH-CEHA Agency (via the three local HAZMAT teams) will continue to respond to all hazardous material emergencies referred by citizens, local authorities, and NJDEP. HAZMAT responded to over 682 calls for service in 12 municipalities with calls ranging from fluid spills on the roadway to suspected biological agents. HAZMAT currently has just over 100 responders trained by the New Jersey State Police to the Technician level. The Trenton team is comprised of full time firefighters on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and at any given time, 10 to 15 HAZMAT technicians are on duty. The West Windsor and Hamilton teams are made up of police and fire personnel; some have on duty staffing levels that fluctuate daily while others are on call- back status. Although the teams have primary first response areas in the County, all three teams cross boundaries and support each other routinely.

HAZMAT response teams will continue to assess environmental health threats and provide sampling of the environment at the site of a hazardous materials incident/emergency during the period of the emergency only. HAZMAT response teams, in the event of a BT/HAZMAT incident, will respond to the threat, which might eventually lead to violations of Air, Water,

Solid Waste, and/or Noise program. The lead agency, in coordination with the appropriate NJDEP office, will be responsible for the prevention, mitigation, and remediation of the exposed area after an incident has occurred. HAZMAT response teams have upgraded their equipment inventory through NJDEP grant funds. Meters and WMD detection equipment purchased with the 00-01 Domestic Preparedness Grant will continue to be maintained with required calibration and software upgrades. HAZMAT response teams will continue to participate with: OEM, local health departments, NJDEP Southern Regional Emergency Response Work Group, along with MCDPH-CEHA Agency tabletop exercises for natural disasters, BT incidents, and health outbreaks. HAZMAT response teams will continue to maintain a core of trained and equipped personnel who are capable of responding to hazardous material incidents.

Open and Effective Government Partnerships

The MCDPH-CEHA Agency will fulfill its vision and mission and achieve its goals through the involvement of citizens and stakeholders as critical partners, and through the commitment to quality principles and methods as a means to continuous improvement of its operations. The MCDPH-CEHA Agency works in cooperation with NJDEP, New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), local health departments, three county HAZMAT Teams, and four county agencies: Planning, Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Mercer County Improvement Authority (MCIA) and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.

The MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to improve the coordination of environmental health services vital to the health of all residents of Mercer County. The MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to encourage and develop strategic partnerships with the following organizations: local, state, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, environmental commissions, the public, and the business community to address environmental issues and concerns. The MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to provide education and outreach as well as environmental data to community groups and interested stakeholders.

The MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to provide assistance and information to individuals, citizen groups, and the community at large. In conjunction with Mercer County Sheriff's Office, the MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to disseminate information about "Operation Take Back," a program intended to educate the community about safe disposal of medicines that are commonly abused, including expired, unused prescription and non-prescription medicine.

The MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to respond promptly and efficiently to complaints and will continue to provide environmental health information to the public, in accordance with all New Jersey Open Public Records Act (OPRA) P.L. 2011, CHAPTER 404 N.J.S.A 47:1A-1 et seq.

The Mercer County Division of Public Health CEHA Agency will continue to work with the Geographic Information System (GIS) team to further develop its Internet accessible database program. The County is continuing to identify additional stakeholders at the state, county, and local levels. Data will be collected through a variety of means such as county derived information, field inspections, and shared informational systems from state and municipal sources. Mercer County continues to move forward and coordinate its countywide septic system

management plan. Information for this project will be collected from each municipality. The GIS team will compile, reformat, and re-populate the information within the GIS database. Creating a database that is developed by its users, contains uniform information and is easily accessible can help to successfully deliver a valuable user-friendly system. Future datasets are proposed to include private and public wells, public sewer lines and potable water lines.

MCDPH Local Information Network & Communication System (LINCS) and Community Health Alert & Information Network (CHAIN) Program will continue to ensure that the public is advised, updated and made aware of any trainings, risks or emergencies within Mercer County. The MCDPH-CEHA Agency staff will continue to work with the LINCS staff in strengthening the links to critical community health organizations and the public within Mercer County. The MCDPH-CEHA Agency will continue to participate in education and training opportunities that are provided by LINCS. These learning opportunities may be offered via distance learning, satellite, and web-based technologies. Continuous upgrading of skills will allow staff to be better prepared for possible bio-terrorism and other public health threats. The MCDPH-CEHA Agency in cooperation with LINCS will use the CHAIN network to disseminate information in a timely and coordinated manner. Alerts may be issued to staff, community partners, and the County's residents on a variety of topics such as public health alerts, emergency events, trainings and volunteer opportunities.

MCDPH will continue to respond to community complaints as to improve, identify, and reduce the risk associated with environmental health hazards. Annual continuing education training and mandatory NJDEP compliance and enforcement training enhance our staff's professional competency. Expanding professional networks will remain a priority. Collaboration with Local Health Departments (LHD) will be maintained through engaging in professional public health forums, such as quarterly meetings with LHD Registered Environmental Health Specialists and the New Jersey Environmental Health Association. Additional statewide professional networking empowers our ability to support current environmental health issues that impact neighboring County CEHA agencies, including Burlington County, Hunterdon County, Middlesex County, Somerset County, and Bucks County (PA). Progressive strides to enhance the existing CEHA programs empower MCDPH to maintain a healthier environment throughout Mercer County and the State of New Jersey.