

**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Performance Partnership Agreement
Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Year End Highlights**

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is the environmental regulatory agency within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) responsible for protecting human health, safety and the environment for the Commonwealth's citizens by ensuring clean air and water, the safe management and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes, the cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills, and the preservation of wetlands and coastal services.

During Fiscal Year 2015 MassDEP continued to make progress in protecting the Commonwealth's environment and the health of those who live and work here. The agency's permitting activities continued to meet overall performance goals, while its work in assuring compliance, pursuing enforcement actions, providing grants and technical assistance, and monitoring the cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills as well as the quality of the commonwealth's air and waters continued.

Governor Baker, Lieutenant Governor Polito, Secretary Beaton and Commissioner Suuberg have emphasized the importance of state assistance to municipalities and other stakeholders, and partnering with local government, other state agencies the environmental advocacy community and our regulated stakeholders. The agency has put this into practice with new offices dedicated to supporting our stakeholders, and providing permitting and ombudsman services. Together with all of our citizens, the agency is proud to be moving forward to meet the environmental challenges of the future.

Martin Suuberg
Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AND EVENTS

MassDEP's 40th Anniversary Celebration *40 Years Cleaner, 40 Years Greener* - October 14, 2015

In October 2015, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection marked four decades of protecting the environment and the public health across the Commonwealth with a 40th anniversary ceremony at the Massachusetts Statehouse and at each of the agency's regional offices.

Over the past decades MassDEP - and its staff who have worked so hard to protect public health and the environment - have achieved a great deal. In recognition of that important work and the accomplishments of the agency, organized a variety of celebratory events with the theme "*40 Years Cleaner, 40 Years Greener: Celebrating Four Decades of Environmental Progress*" highlighting the occasion. In addition to the commemorative slogan, a commemorative logo was also unveiled, and will be used during the anniversary year. On October 14th at the Great Hall in the Statehouse in Boston, seven former Commissioners, public officials, colleagues from our sister agencies, state legislators, MassDEP stakeholders, along with many past and present MassDEP staff, gathered to acknowledge the agency's anniversary and accomplishments. MassDEP also hosted an open house at its Boston headquarters for Boston employees, and each regional office and the Wall Experiment Station hosted celebratory events. Shared at each occasion were a variety of memorabilia and photos, speakers, slideshows, and highlights of the agency's work and milestones of well known projects.



Providing Technical Assistance to Municipalities, Improving Public Transparency and Strengthening Partnerships

Office of Municipal Partnerships and Governmental Affairs

The Office of Municipal Partnerships and Governmental Affairs was established to serve as a visible point-of-contact for municipalities, local officials, legislators and other governmental agencies. The Office coordinates cross-agency efforts to provide up-to-date and effective outreach and user-friendly assistance – using both online and traditional formats - to a range of groups that do business with MassDEP or rely on it for information. The Office will strengthen the agency's partnerships with cities and towns and promote increased understanding about the agency's programs that protect the environment and the public health. In its first year, the Office has started improving outreach materials, updated the agency website to make the agency more accessible and transparent. The new website can be found here: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/service/ompga>

Office of Permit and Regulatory Ombudsman and Special Projects

The agency opened its Office of Permit and Regulatory Ombudsman & Special Projects to provide focused assistance to large, complex, or cutting-edge facilities or projects that will require permitting coordination among various local, state and federal agencies, or across multiple MassDEP regions. The Office can also facilitate the use of [Fast Track Permitting](#) to accelerate project review. If questions or concerns arise about MassDEP permitting procedures, timelines or outcomes, the Office can also provide an impartial ombudsman to address them. In addition to these permitting services, the Office will contribute to regulatory improvements and support special projects across the Department.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015 INITIATIVES

Executive Order 562 - A Clearer Code: Regulatory Review

Since Governor Baker signed Executive Order 562 on March 31, 2015, MassDEP began conducting a comprehensive review of its regulations. The Order directs all agencies to review their regulations to ensure that a clear need and purpose for the rules exist, and that they are written concisely in plain and understandable language. The required analysis also includes reviewing the cost of the regulation, considered with its benefits, alternative regulatory approaches, potential duplication and stringency in comparison to federal requirements, and whether the rules unduly and adversely affect the public or the competitive environment in Massachusetts. MassDEP's review identified 10 regulatory chapters that it recommended rescinding and 18 regulatory chapters that it recommended amending. Although started in 2015, the regulatory evaluation process will continue into 2016, with promulgation of regulatory amendments. The MassDEP website highlights the MassDEP regulatory workplan with details of specific changes that are contemplated. The usual public involvement steps, including public notice and hearings, that are required for accomplishing regulatory changes will be followed as the proposed changes move towards promulgation.

Environmental Information and Public Access System (EIPAS) - Transforming Environmental Information Technology for Massachusetts

In 2011 MassDEP began to evaluate its ability to continue to implement its core activities and perform its regulatory oversight activities with information technology (IT) improvements. Many of the IT systems that support MassDEP are decades old, have become insufficient to meet changing business needs, and are increasingly difficult to maintain. With input from external stakeholders, Secretariat IT leadership and agency personnel, the Secretariat-wide initiative known as the Energy and Environmental Information and Public Access System (or EIPAS) commenced. When fully implemented, EIPAS will replace many isolated and complex information technology systems currently in use and ease

information collection, transfer and linkage. MassDEP, other EEA agencies, constituents and partners will enjoy the benefits of EIPAS in:

- Reduced uncertainty and time to businesses for permitting;
- Improved stewardship of the Commonwealth's environmental resources through faster violation identification, increased compliance rates and decreased time to assess compliance through the use of rules-based processing;
- MassDEP staff time more effectively focused by using technology;
- Increased transparency, enhanced access to environmental data, and civic engagement through online portals;
- Enhanced collaboration with other agencies and municipalities through information-sharing opportunities; and
- Improved revenue collection.

In 2015 MassDEP achieved a major milestone by signing a contract with GCOM to launch the first phases of development and implementation of EIPAS with two planned releases. EIPAS is being developed and released on an iterative basis, with the initial set of product features supporting online submittal of permit applications and agency decision processes. Future releases will expand upon this functionality. EIPAS will ultimately include features that support EEA's key regulatory business processes, including permitting, compliance and enforcement tracking, as well as online reporting. The current focus on the permitting component of EIPAS is part of a larger Commonwealth-wide online permitting initiative: ePLACE (electronic Permitting, Licensing, Authorizations, Certifications and Eligibility).

The first group of permits to be managed on line through the EIPAS system has been the subject of intense design and coding work beginning in fiscal year 2016. MassDEP expects on line permitting functionality to be available for these permits by December 2016. Major features of this first release include:

- **Capacity to Upload Documents and Files.** Many authorization applications require submittal of attachments, which can be in a variety of formats, and can be quite large. EIPAS will enable users to upload one or more files, as required for their online submission. The files can be word documents, plans, photos, etc.
- **Online Payment Options.** Applicants will be able to pay fees associated with permits when submitting online applications through credit card or direct bank transfers. General payment status will be visible to EEA staff, and will be designed to work seamlessly with timeline calculations for review of an authorization application.
- **Automated Workflow.** When applicants submit applications online, EIPAS will allow the appropriate staff to view, assign and route the application throughout the review process.

- **Geographic Information System (GIS) Support.** GIS Accela supports rich GIS functionality. Both internal and external users will be able to view application data through interactive online mapping tools.
- **Public Comment Interface.** Many EEA authorizations require a public comment period. Through EIPAS, citizens will be able to make comments on specific authorizations open for public comments online via a Public Viewer/Comment portal. Citizens will be able to upload files to support their comments. EIPAS will allow business rules for the public comment period to be designed to meet the needs of the specific permit and program. Citizens will have online access to applications and draft permits that are the subject of the public comment period. Further, EIPAS will facilitate and support EEA's responses in the public comment process as required.

Process Optimization: Before building the system. MassDEP also took important steps in evaluating and documenting our current business processes to prepare for the project during this Fiscal Year. A comprehensive data-standards initiative was completed resulting in standard definitions of key data elements - a critical first step for MassDEP to ensure it can share information effectively in the future. MassDEP also worked to standardize and align agency work practices across programs and locations prior to beginning EIPAS system development. This work, referred to as "Agency Process Optimization," is based on the "LEAN" and 'Six Sigma' process improvement methods, , will help the agency maximize the benefits from the new EIPAS system and shorten system development time through the implementation of standardized, repeatable workflows.

The EIPAS technological transformation will boost performance, and serve as a nation-leading example of using technology to protect the environment and effectively engage the public in our work.

Section 208 Water Quality Plan for Cape Cod -Supporting Improvements in Cape Cod Regional Water Quality

The Certification of the Cape Cod Regional Water Quality Plan Update by Governor Baker in June of 2015 was the beginning of the implementation phase for this Plan, the purpose of which is to address serious water quality impairments. Developed by the Cape Cod Commission with state support during 2014 - 2015, the Plan was the subject of an extensive outreach effort to engage and increase local interest in moving toward sustainable and long term water quality improvements. Approved by EPA in September 2015, MassDEP and the Cape Cod Commission are now committed to providing ongoing assistance to Cape Cod communities, and specifically to developing a watershed based permitting approach. Towns interested and ready to incorporate conventional and innovative technologies into Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plans and targeted watershed plans will benefit from MassDEP technical assistance. MassDEP will also work with the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust to update the State Revolving Fund Loan regulations in 2016 in order to allow for principle forgiveness and additional subsidies for the Trust's water infrastructure loans.

Climate and Resiliency Efforts

Electric Vehicles

Massachusetts, through a multi agency effort, continued to advance the deployment of plug-in electric vehicles in the Commonwealth. MassDEP's support included continuing the consumer rebate program through the MOR-EV program; providing grants to public entities and workplaces to purchase plug-in electric vehicles and charging stations through the MasseVIP program; moving forward with a DC fast charging network along critical corridors; and continuing the Ride and Drive campaign in 2016 in conjunction with Plug-in America. In addition, MassDEP is working at the regional, national, and international levels to increase plug-in vehicles through the 8-state Zero Emission Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding, the Transportation Climate Initiative, and the International ZEV Alliance.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Massachusetts is a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a nine-state market based program to cap and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector. To date, 31 auctions have been held to auction CO2 allowances with a significant amount of the proceeds invested in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other greenhouse gas reduction programs and measures. The four auctions conducted in FFY2015 further supported these energy investments in Massachusetts through the oversight and management of the funds by the Department of Energy Resources.

Water Utility Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness

The Water Utility Resilience Program (WURP) was initiated in 2015, and has been steadily working on a variety of climate change adaptation and emergency preparedness issues affecting drinking water and wastewater facilities in Massachusetts. The program was launched to provide technical assistance for water utilities in developing or enhancing their resilience to severe and hazardous weather events. WURP was promoted in 2015 with outreach through presentations of the new program at four DEP Regional Forum trainings as well as three additional trainings hosted by the Massachusetts Water Pollution Control Association, the Massachusetts Water Works Association and the Massachusetts Rural Water Association. Additional program highlights include:

- Designating an Emergency Preparedness Point Person for the Bureau of Water Resources (BWR) to provide emergency support functions relative to the DW/WW sector. Support was provided during the May 2015 Brockton Water Main Break and the Wachusett Reservoir Railroad Incident Field Exercise as a Design Team Member and participant.
- Member participation in the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC) Climate Change Committee and the Association of State Drinking Administrators (ASDWA) Climate Change Committee

- Collaborating with EPA on the pilot Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT) program.

Critical Infrastructure Mapping Project

MassDEP initiated a statewide water infrastructure mapping inventory to enhance internal MassDEP workflow and identify critical infrastructure mapping needs of water utilities. Vulnerability assessment and prioritization of critical drinking water and wastewater infrastructure is limited due to the lack of any standardized mapping or coordination at the statewide level. This reduces MassDEP's ability to efficiently respond to PWS involved emergencies and fails to provide the tools necessary to evaluate, prioritize and assist water utilities with critical infrastructure resilience planning. Working with the GIS program and regional staff to replicate a CERO wastewater mapping initiative, WURP is working to duplicate the wastewater infrastructure mapping statewide with a goal of achieving equivalent results for drinking water infrastructure.

Emergency Power and Municipal Aid Evaluation

Working with MassDEP's Office of Emergency Preparedness, WURP will review evaluate and identify gaps between the 2013 US Army Corps of Engineers' generator assessments, participants in the Massachusetts Water / Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) and participants in the statewide or public works mutual aid agreements.

Organics Management

MassDEP continued to actively implement its Organics Action Plan focusing on reducing the disposal of food materials and driving food to higher value uses, including increasing food donation and food rescue, and increasing the diversion of food that cannot be donated to animal feed, anaerobic digestion, and composting. MassDEP continued to engage stakeholders through the meetings of the Organics Subcommittee and numerous other meetings and conferences. Outreach and assistance was provided to businesses and institutions to support compliance with the commercial organics waste disposal ban, while and agency also conducted inspections to verify compliance. MassDEP also continued to partner with the Department of Energy Resources and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to foster the growth of anaerobic digestion (AD) in Massachusetts. As part of that effort MassDEP provided a \$500,000 grant to the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District, a regional wastewater system, for the design and construction of components of their AD unit retrofits needed to manage source separated organics at the facility starting in the summer of 2016.

Growing the RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts program, which provides free assistance and information resources to help businesses and institutions reduce waste and increase recycling and composting, also was an agency success. The RecyclingWorks program worked in cooperation with state and local public health officials to publish best management practices to donate food safely and partnered with the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic to publish educational fact sheets to help promote increased food

donation. RecyclingWorks continues to assist thousands of businesses annually through a combination of on-line resources, phone assistance, workshops, and in person technical assistance. Through RecyclingWorks, MassDEP also launched a new technical assistance and training program for compost site operators.

Advancing Soil Management

The Department addressed two challenging issues through the development and implementation of the ***Interim Policy on the Re-Use of Soil for Large Reclamation Projects (COM-15-01)***. First, by providing a mechanism for safely managing soil at quarry reclamation projects, the policy facilitates the filling and re-use of spent (or abandoned) quarries, sand pits and gravel pits. These locations are often safety hazards and their reclamation can provide opportunities for beneficial new uses, including parks. Second, the policy provides increased in-state options for the re-use of soil excavated from new development projects. This “excess excavate” is voluminous and heavy, and often must be shipped out-of-state at substantial cost. By creating new capacity for the re-use of soil, the Interim Policy allows developers to reliably estimate the costs and timing of managing project soils.

The policy was developed pursuant to [Section 277 of the FY2015 Budget](#) which directed the Department to establish regulations, guidelines, standards or procedures for determining the suitability of soil used as fill material for the reclamation of quarries, sand pits and gravel pits. The general approach has also been successfully applied to other projects requiring large amounts of soil as fill, such as cemetery expansions and leveling farm land.

Partnering to Manage Stormwater

MassDEP’s Central and Boston Offices continue to provide technical assistance and support to the five municipal Stormwater Coalitions in Massachusetts. These coalitions, formed with seed money from the Commonwealth’s Community Innovation Challenge grant program, are being used by 82 Massachusetts towns to identify and collaboratively implement actions that reduce pollution from stormwater and to prepare to meet the requirements of the 2017 MS4 stormwater permit recently issued by EPA and MassDEP.

Technical assistance provided by MassDEP included:

- Workshop presentations on the requirements of the MS4 permit;
- Arranging college student projects that help Towns implement stormwater work;
- Technical assistance to help coalitions explore formation of a statewide stormwater coalition;
- Grant administrations support to help the Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition prepare outreach materials and cost information to meet the requirements of the MS4 permit.

Environmental Justice Policy Development

In 2014, the first Environmental Justice Executive Order was signed in Chelsea, MA (Executive Order 552) with the goal of encouraging sustained and continued efforts to support environmental justice as a priority in Massachusetts. The Executive Order directed the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) to review and revise its Environmental Justice Policy. Over the course of 2015 MassDEP assisted the Secretariat in evaluating the Environmental Justice policy and attended listening sessions that were held across the commonwealth. Final comments on the policy were submitted by MassDEP to the Secretariat in January 2016. Once the EOEEA policy is final, MassDEP will refine its strategy and continue to implement programs and activities considering Environmental Justice concerns in accordance with the commonwealth's Environmental Justice policies and the guidelines of Executive Order 552. MassDEP is looking forward to implementing actions throughout 2016 and beyond to better serve our most vulnerable communities and citizens who are most at risk across the commonwealth.

CORE AGENCY WORK

Timely Permitting Review and Appeal Decisions

The agency's permitting activities continued to meet the performance goals of issuing decisions within 180 days of the submittal of an application. This goal was met for 97% of applications in state fiscal year 2015. In addition, the agency met its "money back guarantee" commitment to issue permits within its timely action regulatory timelines 98% of the time in the state fiscal year.

Once final permitting decisions are issued, many are subject to rights of appeal through the agency's Office of Appeals and Dispute Resolution. In state fiscal year 2015, the Office met its goal of resolving wetlands cases within six months of an appeal being filed in 76% of wetlands case appeals. For non-wetlands case appeals 84% were resolved within seven months of filing.

Supporting Compliance and Deploying Enforcement to Remedy Noncompliance

MassDEP continues to prioritize compliance assistance as well as pursue enforcement activities against egregious violators. Ultimately, the credibility and effectiveness of any environmental program depends upon our success in ensuring compliance with our protective environmental standards. MassDEP employs a comprehensive Compliance Assurance Strategy that promotes environmental compliance through compliance assessment activities, enforcement, technical assistance, and public education. MassDEP also conducts targeted enforcement in administrative, civil, and criminal forums, building strong cases against those that do not comply with applicable laws, and ensuring a level playing field for

those that do. We are proud that Massachusetts' regulated community generally has high rates of compliance.

Grants and Financial Assistance

Clean Water Trust and the State Revolving Loan Fund

\$327 Million Committed to Support and Improve our Water Infrastructure. The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust, a joint effort of the Treasurer's Office, the Executive Office for Administration and Finance and MassDEP, provides low interest financing for cities and towns to protect the state's water resources, water treatment and drinking water systems. In State fiscal year 2015 The Clean Water Trust provided binding commitments for 40 clean water projects, including commitments to the Community Septic Management Program, totaling over \$246 million, as well as 25 commitments for drinking water projects, totaling \$81 million. The variety of projects include work in the areas of combined sewer overflow abatement, upgrading wastewater and drinking water treatment facilities, repair, replacing and upgrading wastewater collection and water distribution systems, financing to municipalities for upgrades to failing septic systems, eliminating infiltration and inflow into these systems, improving storage tanks and pumps as well as work to accomplish landfill closure, brownfields remediation, and renewable energy installation.

Water Management Act Grant Program for Public Water Suppliers

Over \$1 Million Committed to Water Management Projects. This grant program is designed to assist eligible public water suppliers and municipalities with Water Management Act permits by providing funds for planning assistance, demand management, and withdrawal impact mitigation projects in local communities. The Department focused these grants on planning projects for projects to improve ecological conditions, demand management projects to improve the efficiency water use, and mitigation projects to improve or increase in-stream flow, improve recharge, and other projects to mitigate the impacts of water withdrawals. MassDEP funded 12 proposals in state fiscal year 2015, with a total grant dollar amount of the recommended projects of \$806,913. The required matching funds will also leverage an additional \$246,836 in project work, for a total of \$1,053,249 in total water management project improvements.

Water Infrastructure Assessment and Planning Grants

\$400,000 Committed to Infrastructure Planning. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Capital Plan for 2016 – 2020 authorized \$1 million for water infrastructure assessment and planning grants and up to \$400,000 for grants to public entities. In order to best use these funds, MassDEP focused the planning money on the development of Fiscal Sustainability Plans, required by 2014 changes to the federal Clean Water Act in clean water State Revolving Fund loan applications. Fiscal Sustainability Plans are analogous to asset management plans, and are eligible for these state Water Infrastructure Grant funds. Priority was given to clean water projects seeking grant funding to develop Fiscal Sustainability

Planning that were on the 2016 Clean Water Intended Use Plan for State Revolving Loans. Planning projects that were supported by these grants include Asset Management and Fiscal Sustainability Planning, as well as Comprehensive Wastewater Management Planning. Preparing these plans will assist grant recipients to meet state and federal requirements, as well as prepare public utility systems for budgetary planning, regularly assessing assets and replacing water infrastructure system components.

Water Quality Assessment & Planning Grants (Clean Water Act section 604(b))

\$193,000 Committed to Water Quality Assessment and Planning Projects. Five grants funded through Section 604b of the federal Clean Water Act were awarded to projects across the Commonwealth to conduct watershed pollution assessment and planning work to address water quality impairments in local water bodies. The projects, selected each year by Mass DEP, this year were located in Watertown, Berkshire County, Southamptton/Easthampton, Nantucket, and Sturbridge. These projects will provide local assistance to address stormwater management issues, green infrastructure planning efforts, identify sources of bacterial contamination, identify in-lake and ground water sources of phosphorus that are sustaining algal blooms, and develop conceptual plans for a green infrastructure and low impact development installation to address stormwater runoff.

Nonpoint Source Grant Program – Remediation of Impaired Waters (Clean Water Act section 319)

\$1.35 Million Committed to Projects to Remediate Nonpoint Source Pollution. The Federal Clean Water Act (Section 319) established a Nonpoint Source Program for each state, and EPA provides an annual appropriation for program activities and remediation of nonpoint source impaired waters. “Nonpoint Source Pollution” refers to pollutants that reach a water body through runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, drainage, seepage or other similar means. In FFY 2015, MassDEP distributed over half of its \$2,041,230 allocation through a competitive grant process, for projects to be conducted by watershed stakeholders. Projects funded in FFY 2015 include development of recommendations to enhance watershed resiliency in the Deerfield River basin following Tropical Storm Irene; sediment removal in Stockbridge Bowl to restore beneficial uses of the waterbody; and several retrofit projects to remove stormwater pollutants and encourage infiltration. Operations at the Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center in Barnstable, guidance and outreach for small farmers to mitigate agricultural pollution, and development of an on-line tool to assist communities with stormwater planning were also funded. These grant funds require a 40% matching contribution, effectively leveraging the value of the 2015 projects to \$2.25 million.

Solid Waste: Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) Grants

\$2.93 Million Committed to Recycling, Composting, and Diversion. MassDEP offers this funding to cities, towns and regional entities - as well as certain non-profit organizations that provide services to them - for recycling, composting, reuse and source reduction activities that will increase diversion of municipal solid waste and household hazardous waste from disposal. Grants are available for recycling and composting equipment; mattress recycling; Pay-As-You-Throw programs; waste reduction enforcement; school recycling; and organics capacity development projects. This year the program provided \$2.93 million in assistance to 179 cities, towns, regional groups and non-profit organizations to increase the diversion, reuse, composting and recycling of materials in the solid waste stream. MassDEP also provided direct technical assistance to over 1,000 businesses on improving recycling efforts through the RecyclingWorks Program.

Compliance Education and Outreach: MassDEP's Underground Storage Tank Program

With funding from EPA, MassDEP worked to develop and implement a new Data Management System (DMS) for the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program which was released in August 2015. The new system provides an online facility registration tool and a mobile platform for conducting inspections at UST facilities both by licensed Third Party Inspectors and MassDEP staff. To provide assistance to the regulated community, MassDEP conducted eighteen training sessions following the DMS launch across the state in computer equipped classrooms with hands on assistance to help people set up user accounts and update registration information. Three additional sessions were conducted through a user focused webinar. In addition to the technical assistance provided to the owners and operators of UST systems, MassDEP also held a series of webinars to train the Third Party Inspectors in use of both the inspection tool and the UST Data Management System. These sessions helped in achieving impressive engagement with the regulated community. Nearly 1700 people created user accounts in the system, over 8200 registration updates have been submitted and over 1000 Third Party Inspection Reports have been submitted.

MassDEP continues to provide develop compliance assistance tools for this program, including videos posted to YouTube demonstrating how to create a user account, and how to complete the checklist for self certification of compliance. Additional materials and support are available on the agency website to assist users in updating information or filing required reports, through a hot line, and an email help system for this program.

Enforcement Highlights

Compliance and enforcement efforts from this year addressed important environmental impacts in the areas of spill cleanup and brownfields redevelopment, solid waste dumping, wetlands impacts and fill, and wastewater services for municipal sewer systems and treatment works. Selected case descriptions are highlighted below.

Improper cleanup actions at contaminated site in Taunton: \$265,000 in penalties and fees assessed. (February 2015)

MassDEP with the assistance of the Attorney General's office obtained a Judgment by the Suffolk Superior Court against a New York City-based company for failure to adequately address historical releases of chlorinated solvents at the former Kent Silversmith plating facility. The court ordered payment of \$265,000 in penalties and fees by the Michael C. Fina Co. and required the company and its environmental contractor perform a timely assessment and cleanup at the site, as required under state waste site cleanup regulations.

The complaint in the case alleged that the characterization of contaminants at the site was insufficient and that the numerous applications of remedial additives into the soil and groundwater at the site were excessive, resulting in the spread of solvent-contaminated groundwater and the intrusion of solvent vapors into several nearby residences. Remedial additives are chemicals used to treat and remove contaminants in the groundwater. Additional violations at the renovation site included failure to have the asbestos-removal work area isolated with barriers, vents or doors, and putting asbestos-containing waste into improperly sealed bags that were not labeled as required.

Illegal Dumpers Caught with Candid Camera (March 2015).

Exposing the sources of illegal dumping is the goal of MassDEP's "Candid Camera Initiative," an effort launched in 2006 by MassDEP's Environmental Strike Force (ESF), in cooperation with local and state enforcement agencies. In this dumping incident, MassDEP worked with the Massachusetts Environmental Police, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Middlesex District Attorney's office.

Two Revere residents face criminal charges stemming from flagrant illegal dumping and the shattering of large quantities of glass in the Melrose section of the Middlesex Fells Reservation, a heavily-travelled recreational area. The two were identified after being captured on surveillance cameras installed in public spaces to deter illegal dumping, and were indicted on charges of illegal dumping and receiving stolen goods. DCR Rangers with assistance from MassDEP ESF installed surveillance cameras to address illegal dumping in the Middlesex Fells Reservation. In July and August 2014 the cameras captured clear images of the defendants pulling in to the public park in a pickup truck, dumping glass panes, smashing the windows and quickly leaving the area.

Over the last ten years, ESF's Candid Camera Initiative has identified more than 100 illegal dumpers across the Commonwealth, many of whom were subsequently fined and, in many cases, brought back to clean up their mess.

Contractors Penalized \$46,150 Each for Asbestos Violations (April 2015)

MassDEP penalized two asbestos-abatement contractors \$46,150 each for violations found during a routine inspection of a work site at 64 Cambridge Street in Burlington. All State Abatement Professionals of Plaistow, N.H. and Cruz Abatement and Contracting Services of Lawrence contracted to perform asbestos abatement work at this commercial site. MassDEP found approximately 150 linear feet of pipe-wrap asbestos-containing material that had been removed using glove bags without air-tight seals during its December 9, 2014 inspection. In addition, failure to adequately wet the asbestos material prior to removal in this manner would contribute to the release of airborne asbestos fibers, which pose a serious health risk. Asbestos is known to cause asbestosis and various forms of cancer.

Criminal conviction obtained for conspiracy and counterfeiting motor vehicle inspection stickers: Commonwealth v. Sostre. (August 2015)

MassDEP's Environmental Strike Force continues to partner with RMV and the Attorney General's Office to investigate allegations of fraudulent emission stickers being affixed to vehicles by corrupt inspectors and/or station owners. On August 24, 2015, Jose Sostre pled guilty in Suffolk Superior Court to criminal charges of Counterfeiting Motor Vehicle Inspection Stickers and Conspiracy. Mr. Sostre was sentenced to one year in the House of Correction, 90 days to serve followed by a three year probationary period.

The state's motor vehicle inspection program, a joint program with MassDEP and the Registry of Motor Vehicles, requires yearly safety tests for all motor vehicles. Several years ago, the MassDEP Strike Force investigators worked with staff in MassDEP's Inspection and Maintenance Program to analyze suspicious data. As a result, scores of enforcement cases have been brought against persons that created fake "passing" inspection stickers for vehicles that had failed emissions testing.

More detailed information on agency activities can be found by visiting MassDEP's homepage at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/>.