

Tracking system aimed at illegal dumping of waste

HARRISBURG (AP) — A new waste-tracking system in New Jersey is helping state officials monitor industrial and hazardous waste crossing the border into Pennsylvania each month.

The system requires "cradle to grave" monitoring by the source, the hauler and the disposal site operator, and is part of a federal law that Pennsylvania will implement in 1980.

It is expected to help state officials track down hazardous waste that has been illegally dumped.

"We are aware that hundreds of thousands of gallons are coming into Pennsylvania monthly," said Gary Galida, who heads the hazardous waste

division within Pennsylvania's Bureau of Solid Waste Management.

The state's waste management bureau defines hazardous waste as refuse that can cause illness or death, or pose health and environmental threats when it is improperly stored, treated, transported or disposed.

It ranges from pesticides, mercury and high salt concentrations, to pharmaceutical waste that contains arsenic or cyanide.

Galida said New Jersey is estimated to send 65 percent of its industrial and hazardous waste to Pennsylvania.

"Some is taken to disposal facilities that can handle it. In other cases, it has

been slated for facilities that it never went to," he claimed.

Waste that fails to arrive at permitted sites has often been dumped at abandoned strip mine properties, forested areas and wherever else is convenient, he said.

Pennsylvania is the third largest producer of hazardous waste in the country, generating 3½ dry tons annually.

But Galida said Pennsylvania does not have a facility dedicated exclusively to the disposal of hazardous waste and does not expect to have one for at least a year.

Meanwhile, Pennsylvania continues to export some hazardous waste to other states. Officials have stepped up en-

forcement efforts to make sure hazardous materials are dumped at permitted sites within the state. In some cases, they have gone to court to halt illegal dumping of the dangerous substances.

"We have caught some of these people," Galida said. "We have had some success with contacting the industry whose waste it is, and having them come and get it."

Jim Snyder, chief of operations for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Solid Waste Management, said eight to 10 cases of illegal dumping are currently under investigation — a number he calls the tip of the iceberg.

Snyder said the illegal activities are most serious in the industrial areas

around Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, and occur to some extent in the northeastern part of the state.

"One of the major problems is that we have no idea how many hazardous waste sites we're dealing with," he explained. "We're continually investigating sites that we uncover as the result of our observations or through informants."

Several recent cases involve the bankrupt ABM Disposal Service Inc.

State environmental officials found hazardous waste from companies that produce paint, solvents and pharmaceuticals at an ABM site in Chester, Delaware County. The state placed a

\$6,000 fence around the site and is studying cleanup costs.

Keith Welks, an assistant attorney general assigned to the Department of Environmental Resources, said ABM President Frank Tyson was indicted April 24 on 22 counts of bribery.

The indictments are in connection with the illegal disposal of chemical and industrial waste at a Fort Mifflin site in southwest Philadelphia. Welks said at least one city worker has been charged with accepting bribes in exchange for allowing the illegal dumping.

Tyson was bound over for trial three days later, on April 27, in another case, according to Welks.

Gasoline supplies low across U.S.

By The Associated Press
Gasoline supplies were tight across America yesterday, with some stations closed and others ringed by lines of anxious motorists, but many stations had let the belt out a few notches with new May fuel shipments.

In California, however, the situation worsened, with reports of violence flaring at the pumps and some drivers waiting hours — sometimes overnight — to top off their tanks.

President Carter, who visited the Los Angeles area Saturday, said he ordered Energy Secretary James Schlesinger to "immediately determine the facts" of California's severe gasoline shortage and report on what new steps might be taken to alleviate the problem.

California hopes to ease the crunch at the service stations through an odd-even gasoline distribution system pinned to vehicle license plate numbers. Some counties, including Los Angeles, are expected to adopt the state-approved plan today.

Across the country from gas-starved California, the mood was almost carnival-like at two Boston stations, which sold gas for 25 cents a gallon for a two-hour period. The sale was part of a promotion sponsored by radio stations WHDH-AM and WCOZ-FM.

The station managers said they sold 7,500 gallons to delighted Boston motorists. The radio stations estimated their bill at more than \$4,000.

The pump price had been 78.9 cents a gallon for regular and 83.9 cents for unleaded at one of the two service stations. The average price of all gasoline is a little over 77 cents a gallon across the country.

Some New Jersey drivers were also paying 25 cents — to get on the Garden State Parkway and fill up at toll road service stations, which limited purchases to \$5. Many other stations around the state were closed yesterday to stretch limited allocations.

Only an estimated 15 percent of Los Angeles area gasoline stations opened yesterday, and lines of cars formed before dawn.

At some closed stations, where entrances were not blocked by ropes or oil drums, cars were parked and locked, the owners trying to be in good position when the stations opened early today.

Other motorists didn't want to wait and tried to bribe station operators to open early or re-open just for them.

"If I wasn't so honest, I could make \$200 a day in bribes," said the operator of one Los Angeles station.

Others tried bullying their way into stations and at times that sparked violence.

In Hollywood on Saturday, a man cut in front of about 50 motorists at a gas station. When an angry group moved toward him, he pulled a derringer and held off the crowd with the gun while he filled his tank, police said.

He was still pumping when he was arrested, officers said.

A tow truck driver told police that about 20 persons tried to mug him Saturday as he took six gallons of gas to a motorist whose car had run dry while waiting in a line outside a station.

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