

# ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



Newsletter of the N.H. Department of Environmental Services

January/February 2006

## Governor's Message

### Cleaning up mercury

In New Hampshire, we are blessed with an abundance of beautiful lakes and rivers. Mercury is poisoning New Hampshire's beautiful lakes and rivers and endangering the health of our citizens, particularly pregnant women and children. Because of mercury pollution, we issue a statewide fish advisory that warns our citizens, particularly pregnant women and children, to limit their consumption of freshwater fish caught in our state.



Governor Lynch

We must continue to act to reduce mercury pollution.

We've made progress over the years, reducing mercury emissions from municipal waste combustors and medical incinerators, banning the use of some products where mercury is unnecessary, and working with industry to reduce and recycle mercury products. This past Earth Day, for example, I joined with NH Auto & Truck Recyclers Association to recognize their voluntary mercury switch removal program, which has already collected and properly recycled several thousand mercury switches from old vehicles.

Despite the progress, we still have work to do. Coal-fired power plants remain one of the state's largest

Mercury, *continued on page 2*

## DES receives EPA Healthy Communities grant

DES was recently awarded a grant from EPA New England for the 2005 *Healthy Communities* program. The goal of this grant program is to provide funds for projects that will support healthy, livable and safe communities across New England. The DES grant is one of 23 Healthy Communities grants awarded in the New England region, and one of two awarded to organizations in New Hampshire. The award was presented to DES Commis-



*Pictured with students from Gossler Park Elementary School in Manchester are EPA New England Administrator Bob Varney; DES Commissioner Mike Nolin; former Manchester Mayor Bob Baines; and MEA Executive Director Tom Adams.*

Healthy Communities, *continued on page 2*

## Commissioner's Column

### DES's role in flooding response and recovery

When New Hampshire suffers a natural disaster such as the catastrophic flooding of last fall, DES's involvement is massive and similar to a spider's web in its origin. In the last edition of the newsletter, I highlighted the efforts of our Dam Bureau during this event, however, as an entire agency, our response to the flooding and the subsequent ongoing recovery goes far beyond a single program. We have literally dozens of programs that are dispatched in their various capaci-

ties. To explain it simply, we have a responsibility for the protection and restoration of our environment, which means virtually anything that affects the air, water or land.

This information is not necessarily enlightening by itself, until you consider the coordination that is required to ensure that the agency have a seamless approach to such situations. I am proud to say that I believe we achieved, for the most part, that seamless Response, *continued on page 2*

## Mercury

*continued from page 1*

sources of mercury emissions. Recently, legislators and stakeholders came together to develop a proposal to significantly reduce those emissions (see related article on page 8). This proposed agreement is an important step toward significantly reducing mercury in New Hampshire. If passed, the proposed legislation will result in at least an 80 percent reduction in mercury, and reduce sulfur emissions by greater than 90 percent.

Cleaning up mercury, sulfur and particulate matter will improve the quality of our water and air, and reduce health risks to our citizens. This proposed legislation is an important first step. I applaud the stakeholders who came together to develop this proposal, and I look forward to the broad review and public input this proposal will have as it moves through the legislative process.

John Lynch, *Governor*

## Response

*continued from page 1*

less effort—for which the DES staff is to be commended for their quick action, flexibility and professionalism during this event. In particular, I recently awarded special recognition during our Employee of the Year ceremony to DES Dam Bureau for their work under these difficult circumstances.

This is not to say that we don't have areas for improvement and lessons to learn, which we recognized as a result of a recent debriefing session. The report on its findings will provide further direction for the agency on how to improve its response. We anticipate making a few changes to our current emergency protocols and crisis and risk communication processes. Even prior to the October floods, the agency planned to initiate National Incident Management System training for staff; when completed, DES will be only the second state agency to have such certification.

Finally, I think the agency would benefit from public feedback on our performance during the disaster. I welcome your thoughts, comments and suggestions. Please send them to the DES Public Information Office, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095.

Michael P. Nolin  
*Commissioner*

### DES Bureaus/Programs Most Involved in the Floods of 2005

Dam Bureau  
Water Supply Engineering Bureau  
(drinking water systems)  
Wastewater Engineering Bureau  
Wetlands Bureau  
Watershed Bureau  
Geologic Survey  
Spill Response and Complaint Investigation Section (petroleum spills)  
Public Information Office  
DES Laboratory  
Solid Waste Program  
Underground Storage Tank Program

## Healthy Communities

*continued from page 1*

sioner Michael Nolin at a ceremony at the Gossler Park Elementary School in Manchester as part of EPA's celebration of Children's Health Month in October.

The \$25,905 grant will be used by DES to help state school district facility managers implement the new EPA Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool (Healthy SEAT) for school buildings in their districts. This software is designed to help school districts identify, prioritize and manage their environmental responsibilities. It lets school district staff track environmental health and safety conditions by school, and generate customized checklists and reports. DES will customize this software specifically for use in New Hampshire, and then offer training sessions across the state during the coming year.

"New Hampshire has almost 500 public school buildings serving over 200,000 children; and facilities managers responsible for these buildings are often faced with numerous preventable health and safety issues," notes DES Commissioner Michael Nolin. "We feel that this comprehensive self-assessment tool will be a valuable asset for assisting facilities managers in assuring that all students and staff have a safe, healthy and productive learning environment."

The project is a partnership of DES, the N.H. Department of Health and Human Services, the N.H. Department of Education, health departments in both Manchester and Nashua, and the N.H. Partnership for High Performance Schools.

For more information on this project and the Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool, contact Rick Rumba, DES Environmental Health Program Administrator at (603) 271-1987 or [rrumba@des.state.nh.us](mailto:rrumba@des.state.nh.us). ■

**ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS** 

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## DES partners with RPCs for brownfields revitalization

by Gary Lynn, DES Petroleum Remediation Program Supervisor, and Mike Wimsatt, DES Brownfields Supervisor

DES is joining forces with New Hampshire regional planning commissions (RPCs) that have US Environmental Protection Agency brownfields assessment grants to facilitate the investigation, cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields sites. EPA defines "brownfields" as "real property where the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant."

Since 1997, EPA has provided grants to DES and several New Hampshire municipalities for assessment and cleanup planning at selected brownfields sites. Over the last two years, EPA has awarded these brownfields assessment grants to three New Hampshire RPCs: Southwest RPC received \$358,000 for hazardous substances and \$158,000 for petroleum; Nashua RPC received \$200,000 for petroleum; and North Country Council received \$200,000 for petroleum.

The addition of regional planning commissions as grantees adds a new dimension to the state's brownfields landscape. RPCs have close relationships with municipalities and their planning departments and have long played roles in applying for funding from mixed sources for regional and local redevelopment efforts. The brownfields role is a logical extension of their current programs. EPA and DES find this regional approach to brownfields funding very desirable. A regional funding model is particularly helpful for small towns that lack the personnel resources to individually compete for and administer federal grants.

DES is actively involved with the RPCs in the implementation of these grants. When an RPC is awarded a grant, DES assigns a project manager from its brownfields team to serve as liaison and single point of contact for the agency. DES staff provide guidance to the RPC on matters such as grant administration, site inventory and selection,



Executive Councilor Ray Burton (green jacket) inspects Berlin site with Commissioner Nolin (third from left) and Gary Lynn from DES, Jeff Hayes of the North Country Council, and Andre Caron of the City of Berlin.

education on DES site remediation requirements, and technical assistance on site-specific matters.

An example of DES/RPC collaborative efforts is the 74 Maynesboro Street site in Berlin. The site is a residential property in a quiet Berlin neighborhood that was utilized by tenants for an illegal car repair operation. Engines were stored in the cellar; containers of waste oil were scattered throughout the property; and extensive oil staining was present in the cellar, garage, driveway and side yard. The house interior was partially destroyed by the tenant and will need extensive repairs. The city of Berlin took the property for taxes and North Country Council and DES combined efforts to quickly respond to Berlin's need for assistance. DES mobilized its contractor on September 15, 2005 and removed 11 tons of soil impacted by motor oil and fuel oil. Approximately six inches of oily debris was scraped out of the garage, and the cellar and garage slabs were pressure washed to remove oil. The city removed significant quantities of solid wastes and recycled the waste oil. North Country Council will use its brownfields assessment grant to collect and analyze confirmation samples and advise Berlin officials on environmental issues as they proceed with their tax sale of the property.

DES believes that collaboration with RPCs will restore many brownfields sites that may not otherwise be addressed. To further that effort, DES has been working closely with three additional RPCs: Lakes Region, Rockingham, and Southern New Hampshire, as they prepare applications for brownfields assessment grants. As new grants are awarded, DES will work with the new grantees to maximize the impact on their respective regions. ■

### Hundreds of lake water quality reports now on the web

A variety of water quality reports on New Hampshire lakes are now available on the DES website at [www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/lakes/lake\\_water/](http://www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/lakes/lake_water/). They include reports on acid rain, trophic surveys and diagnostic lake studies, as well as links to other lake-related sites. Both summary data and individual lake reports are available for essentially all New Hampshire lakes under the "Trophic Surveys" program. Based on information requests received at DES, the trophic reports are the most popular. Making these reports available electronically is more efficient for all users of these data. ■

## State participates in Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Since 2003, officials from DES and the Public Utilities Commission have represented New Hampshire in the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI, pronounced “re-JE”), widely viewed as one of the most significant climate change initiatives underway in the United States. On December 20, 2005, Gov. Lynch signed the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreeing to participate in the RGGI process. By signing the MOU, New Hampshire would commit to bringing this framework before the Legislature and proposing legislation in 2007 to implement the RGGI Program beginning in 2009. An ongoing stakeholder process will continue to allow affected and interested parties the opportunity to evaluate the im-

### DES welcomes a new HR Administrator

DES’s search for a new Human Resources Administrator ended in November with the hiring of Pam Sopczyk. Pam brings 14 years of HR experience to the agency, most of which was obtained while working for Omega Optical in Brattleboro, Vermont. Although she is a long-time resident of Westmoreland, she is a Buffalo, New York native. “My background (however) and degree is in the field of biology, so I am particularly excited and intrigued about joining DES,” said Pam. All of DES is pleased to welcome Pam aboard. ■



*Pam Sopczyk*

### Chris Way moves on to DRED

Chris Way, DES Septage Coordinator, will be leaving the Agency this month. As septage coordinator, Chris worked tirelessly with communities and the private sector to help develop more in-state septage disposal capacity. He moves on to take a position with the Department of Resources and Economic Development to head up a procurement technical assistance group. During the past 14 years, Chris has had a successful career at DES. Although he has most recently held the post of septage coordinator, more than 12 of his 14 years at DES were spent in the Waste Management Division where he started his career as a hazardous waste inspector. He went on to manage the Used Oil Grants Program, and for many years he worked to provide technical assistance to communities on solid waste management issues. We wish him continued success as he pursues the next phase of his career! ■

pacts of RGGI and assess the best way to implement this program in New Hampshire.

RGGI was started when New York Governor George E. Pataki invited governors of the Northeastern and mid-Atlantic states to collaborate on the design of a program to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, which account for about 30 percent of the total greenhouse gas emissions in the region. By September 2003, New Hampshire had joined the six New England states, New York, New Jersey and Delaware in this regional effort to design a model program to curb emissions that contribute to global climate change.

RGGI proposes using a cap-and-trade approach that establishes a mandatory emissions cap on the electric generating sector, coupled with a market-based trading program to achieve the lowest possible compliance costs. RGGI also includes important components to achieve reductions through end-use energy efficiency, renewable energy strategies, and emission reduction projects outside the power sector.

The design of RGGI, like any other cap-and-trade program, includes determining the emissions sources to be covered by the cap, establishing the total amount of emissions to be allowed from all of the sources (the “emissions cap”), setting aside 25 percent of the cap for strategic energy purposes, and issuing one allowance for each ton of emissions to covered sources, up to the remainder of the cap. Every regulated source is required to have enough allowances to cover its emissions. Sources that do not have enough allowances to cover their projected emissions can either reduce their own emissions or buy allowances on the market. Through market-driven emissions trading, only the most cost-effective reductions are implemented at the plants.

RGGI represents a historic step forward in meeting the challenge of climate change. It makes good energy policy because it will result in a more efficient electric generating sector. The RGGI carbon market will encourage renewable and other non-emitting electric generating technologies and ultimately, fuel diversity. RGGI is also good economic policy because it will improve the region’s energy independence by fostering efficiency and local renewable energy. Dollars not spent outside the region for energy are dollars that may be invested in the region’s economy.

For more information on RGGI, contact Joe Fontaine, DES Air Resources Division, at (603) 271-6794 or [jfontaine@des.state.nh.us](mailto:jfontaine@des.state.nh.us), or go to [www.des.nh.gov/ard/climatechange/rggi.htm](http://www.des.nh.gov/ard/climatechange/rggi.htm). ■

# Amalgam law reduces mercury

A basic pollution prevention strategy is to remove the hazardous components from a material before it travels on to the next step in the process. This past June, DES adopted Env-Ws 905, Standards for Management of Mercury-Containing Amalgam, to do just that by reducing the amount of toxic mercury in wastewater that must be processed by a wastewater treatment plant.

Amalgam is composed of 50 percent mercury and the particles generated



Amalgam separators remove up to 99 percent of all amalgam particles.

from dental practices represent the single largest source of mercury in wastewater. Since neither treatment plants nor private septic systems are designed to remove mercury from wastewater, that mercury can end up in sludge or pass into the surface water or ground water. Env-Ws 905 required all dental

facilities to install equipment, by October 1, 2005, to trap particles of mercury-containing amalgam created when dentists apply or drill amalgam fillings.

Under this new rule, dental practitioners had to install an amalgam separator meeting ISO 11143 standards and either recycle or manage the trapped amalgam as a hazardous waste. Recycling amalgam is inexpensive and exempts the practice from most *N.H. Hazardous Waste Rules* requirements. Dentists also provided DES a signed certification providing the model name, location and operating information for their particular

separator. There is an exemption for specialists who don't generate amalgam waste, as well as a waiver procedure to allow for special circumstances, such as using alternate, equivalent equipment.

There are numerous studies showing high levels of dissolved mercury are found in dental wastewater. Nationally, over six tons of mercury are discharged from dental facilities annually and New Hampshire's contribution is estimated to be approximately 54 pounds. Amalgam separators trap over 95 percent of the solid amalgam particles. In states where amalgam separators were installed, dissolved mercury levels in wastewater dropped as much as 68 percent.

Following adoption of the rules, DES surveyed 1,200 New Hampshire licensed dentists. By November 1, about 700 dentists had responded to DES. Of those responding, 71 percent have installed amalgam separators, 17 percent are exempt or licensed but not working in New Hampshire and 12 percent have requested a waiver or exemption. Over the coming months, DES will make determinations for waiver or exemption requests and perform spot inspections to ensure dentists have accurately completed their certifications indicating compliance with the law. ■

## Clarifying rulemaking on the web

Revisions are being made to DES's main rules page at [www.des.state.nh.us/rules/desadmin\\_list.htm](http://www.des.state.nh.us/rules/desadmin_list.htm), and to the other rules-related links throughout the site to help ensure that people will find the rules that are in effect.

First, the page is being restructured to align with the new subtitle designations, as was done with DES's main rulemaking page at [www.des.nh.gov/RuleMaking/](http://www.des.nh.gov/RuleMaking/). Next, designations will be added to alert users when revisions to the rules have been proposed or recently adopted such that the Rulemaking page needs to be checked. Finally, all rules-related links throughout the site will be redirected to channel through the main rules page. Until the changes are complete, users should always check the Rulemaking page to find any proposed or adopted revisions to the rules they need. ■



## Coming to a ski area near you: Green Slopes

The New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program (NHPPP) has a new initiative entitled NH Green Slopes, which will target environmental outreach efforts to New Hampshire ski areas. The magnitude and diversity of services and operations at ski areas create a multifaceted environmental impact that include chemical and waste use, energy consumption and related air pollution, and solid and hazardous waste generation. With this in mind, NHPPP will provide practical, proven techniques and technologies to reduce environmental impacts and to identify resources for New Hampshire ski area personnel. NHPPP will partner with the National Ski Area Association, Ski New Hampshire, and other state agencies to conduct a baseline assessment, site assessments, workshops and outreach material to reduce ski areas' environmental impact. For more information on this initiative, contact Marc Morgan at (603) 271-0878 or [nhppp@des.state.nh.us](mailto:nhppp@des.state.nh.us). ■

# Environmental consequences of illicit meth labs

## *DES joins forces to protect public health and the environment*

by Tim Drew, Administrator, Public Information and Permitting Unit

**A** new trend in illicit drug production is cropping up around the country. What was once a strictly south-western or western U.S. phenomenon is now spreading toward the Northeast, and DES, along with its many partners, is mobilizing its resources to meet the challenge of protecting public health and the environment from this emerging threat.

The problem involves the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamines in illicit drug laboratories often set up in single-family homes, sheds, apartment houses, campgrounds, mobile homes, garages, or even hotel rooms. These meth labs are creating environmental, public health, and safety hazards in residential areas and pose serious contamination risks to the environment and those exposed to the chemicals used to make the drug. Too often, young children, the elderly, unwitting neighbors, and other innocent bystanders are exposed to toxic fumes, hazardous wastes, tainted water, and/or the potential for explosions and fire from such operations. In response, DES is joining forces with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and other agencies to address the issue before it proliferates here in New Hampshire.

DES and DEA are among a number of federal, state, and local agencies (including regional HAZMAT Teams) that are training, coordinating, and practicing methods to identify and safely clean up these facilities. In-depth knowledge of proper safety precautions is particularly critical for first responders who must secure and then clean up these sites. Facts to consider include:

- Over five pounds of waste are produced for every pound of methamphetamine manufactured.
- Waste is typically dumped directly onto the ground or down drains, contaminating surface water, groundwater, vegetation, and soils, and thus creating an increased risk of exposure to humans.
- There is a real danger of explosion and/or fire, since inexperienced people are often found mixing volatile, unstable compounds, typically without proper safety equipment.
- Health effects from exposure can include shortness of breath, chemical burns, central nervous system damage, and death.
- Chemicals used in methamphetamine production include ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, red phosphorus, hydriotic acid, iodine, lithium and sodium metal, as

well as an assortment of solvents and other reagents found in common household products, such as starter fluid, drain cleaner, lye, paint thinner and common cold medicines.

The immediate cost of cleaning up meth labs has been estimated by the DEA to be in range of \$2,000-\$3,000 per site. However, a recent lab cleanup in New Hampshire cost in excess of \$13,000, and that does not take into account property damage, long-term environmental monitoring, reduced property value, medical costs for those (e.g., children, first responders, etc.) who may have been stricken by the fumes or chemicals, or by indirect exposure to these chemicals in their drinking water, food, indoor air, etc. Criminal justice costs for arrest and prosecution of those responsible for the activity also exact an additional burden on participating agencies. These factors vary greatly and increase the final cleanup cost per incident or site.

If you suspect that such a lab may be operating in your area, DO NOT attempt to approach the operator or enter the premises. Contact your local police or fire department, or HAZMAT Team, or dial 911. For more information on DES's efforts, please contact Tim Drew at (603) 271-3306 or [tdrew@des.state.nh.us](mailto:tdrew@des.state.nh.us). ■

### Did you know ...

... that carbon monoxide can be deadly?

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels it can kill a person in minutes. Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. If appliances that burn fuel are maintained and used properly, the amount of CO produced is usually not hazardous. However, if appliances are not working properly or are used incorrectly, dangerous levels of CO can result. Hundreds of people die accidentally in their homes every year from CO poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances. Be safe this winter.



For more complete information, go to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website at [www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/coftsht.html](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/coftsht.html).

# Volunteer efforts help to restore Cold River

by Ted Walsh, Volunteer River Assessment Program

During October 2005, southwestern New Hampshire experienced one of the worst floods in the state's history. The Cold River and Warren Brook watersheds were the most severely damaged. In addition to the tragic loss of life and property, the physical structure of the Cold River and Warren Brook were significantly altered. For the past four years the Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP) has partnered with the Cold River Local Advisory Committee (LAC) in implementing a comprehensive water quality monitoring program. Volunteers from the Cold River LAC have been tracking parameters such as dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, bacteria, nutrients, chlorides and metals in order to determine long-term water quality trends in the Cold River and its tributaries.

Immediately following the October floods, VRAP and the Cold River LAC began weekly monitoring of the most impacted sites to determine what effect the flooding had in terms of water quality. We found that although nutrient and turbidity levels were temporarily elevated due to high water levels and debris recovery efforts, other water quality parameters, such as conductivity and chloride, were relatively unchanged. What had changed, though, was the physical makeup of the river in terms of stream morphology, fish and macroinvertebrae habitat, and plant cover in the riparian zones.

Restoration efforts in the Cold River watershed initially focused on infrastructure restoration (roads, bridges, etc.), but in the long-term DES and the VRAP program will be partnering with the Cold River LAC, state and federal agencies to develop long-term habitat restoration strategies. In some locations this may be as simple as allowing the riparian zones to re-vegetate naturally. Other restoration efforts could include bank stabilization to reduce sedimentation problems, plantings along stream banks, floodplain mapping, and geomorphological assessments of how the flood has changed the physical course of Warren Brook and the Cold River.

VRAP will also continue working with the Cold River volunteers to monitor water quality and to document long term trends. During the summer of 2005 DES began a pilot volunteer stream flow monitoring program on the Cold River with the assistance of the Cold River LAC. A stream gage was installed just upstream of Drewsville Gorge, and a rating curve was developed to allow volunteers to read the gage and then extrapolate flow rates. This information will be very helpful in determining how stream rating curves may have changed due to the flooding. DES and the

VRAP program look forward to working with all interested parties to assist in the restoration of one of New Hampshire's most scenic watersheds. ■



DES biomonitoring station on Warren Brook as it looked in October 2004.



Photo taken October 24, 2005 of the same area, after the flood.

## DES staff recognized for service milestones

### 10 Years

Brenda Constant, WD  
Barbara McMillian, WD  
David Gordon, ARD  
James Poisson, ARD  
Robert Scott, ARD  
Rebecca Presby, WD  
Paul Susca, WD  
Harrison Mackey, WD  
Grace Levergood, WD  
Jocelyn Degler, WD  
Raymond Gordon III, WMD

### 15 Years

Deborah Soule, WD  
Daniel Terrell, ARD  
Timothy Verville, ARD  
Anne Keach, ARD  
Cheryl McGary, WMD  
Kathleen Fournier, CO  
Mark Corliss, WD  
Richard Skarinka, WD  
Alan Moulton, ARD  
Mary Ann Tilton, WD

### 20 Years

Michael Walls, CO

Roy Gilbreth, WD  
Patricia Hannon, WD  
David Leathers, WMD  
Bridget Whalen, ARD  
John Regan, WMD  
Nancy Kursewicz, WMD  
Teresa Ferrara, CO  
Lisa Fortier, WD  
Richard Schofield, WD  
Charles Berube, WMD  
Edward Kirpolenko, WD  
Sarah Pillsbury, WD  
Maureen Estabrook, WMD  
Michael Galuszka, WMD

### 25 Years

James Falicon, WD  
Jeanne Chwasciak, WD

### 30 Years

James Gill, WD  
Robert Lyon, CO

### 35 Years

Helen Vezina, CO

# Agreement reached on mercury emissions from state's coal-fired power plants

After several months of negotiation, DES staff, legislative leaders, conservation groups, and the state's largest electric utility have reached an agreement to mandate significant reductions in mercury from coal-fired power plants in New Hampshire. The agreement was announced by Rep. Larry Ross, Chairman of the House Science, Technology and Energy Committee, at a press event in November to introduce proposed legislation to implement the agreement.

Rep. Ross was joined by bipartisan co-sponsors of the legislation, which if passed, would require installation of wet scrubber control technology on Public Service of New Hampshire's coal-fired power plant in Bow, resulting in at least an 80 percent reduction in mercury and greater than 90 percent reduction in sulfur emissions. The new technology must be operational no later than July 1, 2013.

Bob Scott, director of the DES Air Resources Division, participated in the press event and noted that the proposed legislation will provide a significant improvement in air quality, while allowing the state to maintain a diverse energy mix and reasonable costs to consumers. "This proposal is a win-win situation for both the environment and the economy," Scott said. "It is the successful culmination of a collaborative process involving government leaders, the regulated community, and environmental groups."

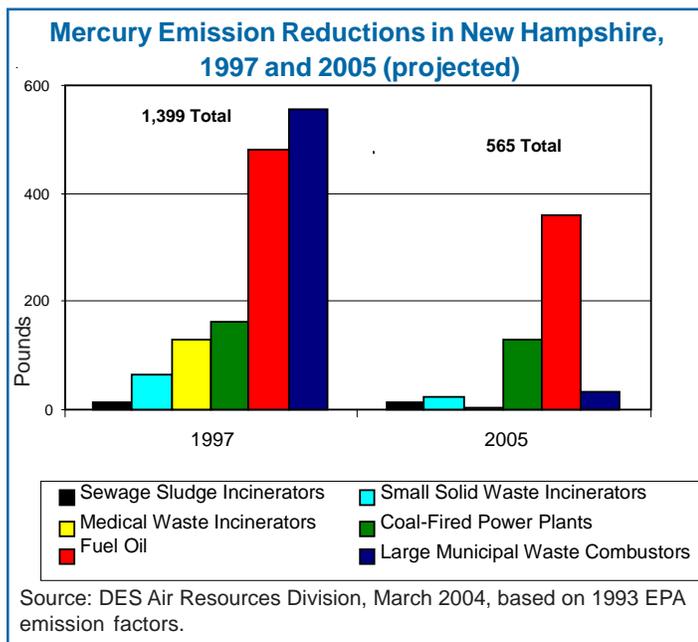
The proposed legislation prohibits PSNH from participating in a proposed federal mercury cap and trade system, which means the mercury reductions will be local. It also provides incentives for PSNH to achieve mercury re-

ductions before 2013 and to maximize the removal capability beyond 80 percent. This proposal goes further than the proposed federal mercury rule, which requires utilities with coal-fired power plants to only meet a 70 percent target removal for mercury by 2018.

Reducing mercury emissions from power plants is part of New Hampshire's strategy to achieve an overall goal of 75 percent mercury reduction by 2010. A 60 percent mercury reduction has already been achieved since 1997, primarily from large municipal waste and medical waste incinerators. (See graph below.) ■



Chris Nash of the DES Shellfish Program announces the re-opening of the Bellamy River to shellfish harvesting, following over 20 years of closure, at a press event held in November.



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