

## Governor's Message

### My environmental initiatives for 2007

As Governor, I am committed to continuing to work to protect our breathtaking landscapes and natural beauty, which help drive our economy and enhance our quality of life. In my inaugural and budget addresses, I outlined ambitious, but achievable, environmental goals to help preserve New Hampshire's special environment and quality of life.



Governor Lynch

We face challenges as stewards of this great state, but we also have opportunities this year to come together to protect our environment and strengthen our economy for the future.

New Hampshire is the fastest-growing state in the Northeast, placing increasing pressures on our communities. We must act now to protect what is special about New Hampshire. That is why in my budget I proposed \$12 million in funding for the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, which will help preserve New Hampshire's open spaces and historic places.

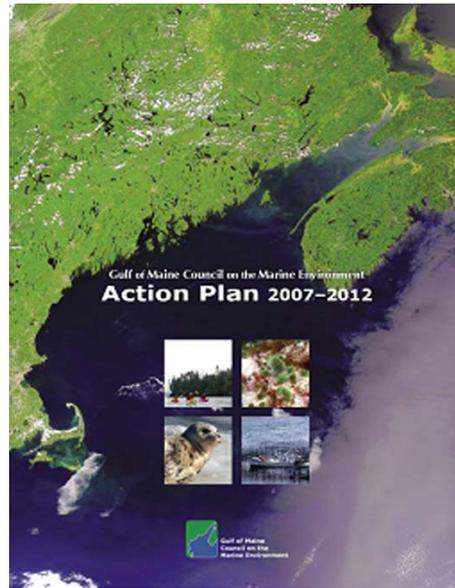
I believe that our state parks are treasures that provide countless

Governor, *continued on page 8*

## Gulf of Maine Council releases new action plan

The three states and two provinces that share the Gulf of Maine and its watershed want healthy and productive coastal and marine habitats, environmental conditions that support ecosystem and human health, and vibrant coastal communities with globally competitive marine-dependent industries.

How to achieve these long-term goals is described in the newly released *Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Action Plan 2007-2012*.



The council, a U.S.-Canadian partnership of government and non-government organizations, works to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations.

DES Commissioner and Gulf of Maine Councilor Tom Burack said, "We look to the Gulf of Maine Council for leadership on marine environment issues that require regional solutions. We will continue to work with our neighboring states and provinces toward a sustainable marine environ-

Gulf of Maine, *continued on page 2*

## Commissioner's Column

### Climate change gives new mission to Earth Day

Having spent much of my childhood in Jackson in the heart of the Presidential Mountain Range, the breathtaking beauty of our state's natural resources is etched on my mind. My lasting memories, not unlike those of others who grew up here in New Hampshire, are of time spent in the outdoors enjoying nature. My wife and I are now enjoying sharing this reverence for the natural world with our young children, from hiking Pitcher Mountain in Stoddard, combing the beaches at Odiorne State Park in Rye, or skiing down the slopes of Black Mountain in Jackson. As another Earth Day approaches, I aspire to ensure

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## Commissioner's Column

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that my grandchildren, like my children, will have similar memories. Such a goal should be shared by us all, including the burden of achieving this goal.

While great strides have been made in environmental cleanup and protection since the first Earth Day 37 years ago, we must confront the stark reality that humankind faces perhaps the greatest threat to our environment yet – climate change caused by human activities. It is difficult these days to watch the news or read a newspaper without seeing something about climate change and the effect it is having upon our planet and our daily lives. We have all seen reports of rising annual temperatures, severe weather events, threats to our food and water supplies, rising sea levels, glacial melting, the endangerment of thousands of plant and animal species and the spread of deadly diseases.

The good news is that the world now recognizes that there is a problem. Governments across the globe are now taking action to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, which trap the sun's heat within the Earth's atmosphere and thereby contribute to global warming. These government led initiatives will take time to implement, but each of us can do something right now to reduce our own impact on the Earth's climate. If enough of us took a handful of meaningful actions in our daily lives to conserve energy, we could collectively reduce our nation's greenhouse gas emissions below levels set forth in global climate treaties, such as the Kyoto Protocol. What's more, these simple steps would save us all money on our electric, home heating, and vehicle fuel bills.

Here is a short list of ways you can make a difference and save money

right now.

**1. Change a light bulb.** Save electricity by replacing ordinary light bulbs in your house with compact fluorescent bulbs.

**2. Keep recycling.** It takes less energy to make products from recycled materials than from virgin materials.

**3. Turn it off.** Save energy by turning off lights and electric devices, such as televisions and computers, when you leave a room. Better yet, use a power strip to control these devices.

**4. Drive smart.** Carpool, drive less, combine errands, buy a hybrid vehicle, reduce idling, ensure that your tires are properly inflated and your engine is serviced regularly – these all reduce the amount of gasoline you will need to purchase.

**5. Use less water.** Only run your dishwasher when full; use cold water to wash your clothes; and turn the water off when brushing your teeth. All of these save water and reduce heating costs.

**6. Buy Local.** On average, produce travels 1,500 miles to reach grocery store shelves. Reduce transportation impacts by buying from local growers.

**7. Plant a tree.** A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.

**8. Plug the leaks.** Weatherize your house by weather-stripping around drafty windows and doors to save on heating costs.

We each have a role in protecting our environment. Please make a pledge to yourself this Earth Day to be part of the solution. Then act on this pledge to leave a better world for your children and grandchildren. Together we can all make a tremendous difference.

Thomas S. Burack  
*Commissioner*

## Oil & remediation rules adopted

DES has recently completed the reorganization and streamlining of the two sets of rules that specified requirements and procedures for the notification, reporting, investigation, remediation, and management of sites where discharges of oil or other contaminants have occurred. The new rules, which were adopted effective February 1, 2007, are Env-Or 600, Contaminated Site Management, and Env-Or 700, Groundwater Release Detection Permits. Rules for the Brownfields Program under RSA 147-F, Env-Or 800, also were recently adopted. Copies are available on-line at [www.des.nh.gov/RuleMaking/index.html#aoil](http://www.des.nh.gov/RuleMaking/index.html#aoil). ■

## Gulf of Maine

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ment that supports a vibrant economy."

The *Action Plan 2007-2012* can be found at [www.gulfofmaine.org](http://www.gulfofmaine.org), along with a detailed two-year work plan and comprehensive information about the Gulf of Maine Council. ■

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



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## DES/DOT seek solutions to salt in impaired I-93 watersheds

by Eric Williams, Supervisor, Watershed Assistance Section

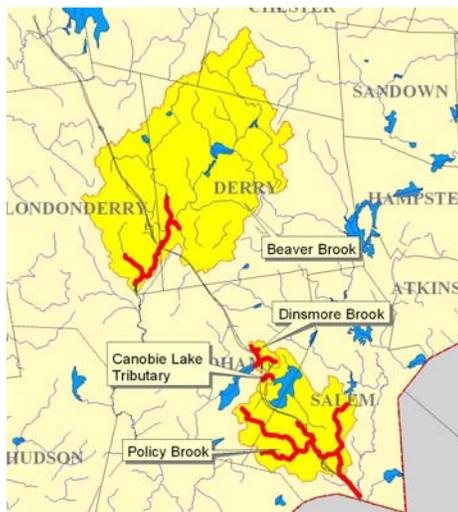
The state wants to expand I-93 from four lanes to eight lanes, but several streams are already impaired from too much salt. State and federal law requires that salt loads be reduced in order to operate the expanded highway.

According to preliminary data compiled by DES and the Department of Transportation (DOT), only about 13 percent of the salt load comes from I-93. More than 40 percent comes from privately maintained roads and parking lots, another third from municipal roads, and the remainder from a variety of smaller sources.

Working together, DES and DOT have selected a consultant team, Jeffrey H. Taylor and Associates and Plymouth State University Center for the Environment, to assess both salt use and driver behavior. The team will assist DES and DOT in developing strategies to reduce salt loading in the polluted watersheds by 30 percent to 70 percent, the estimated reduction needed to meet water quality standards with an expanded I-93.

DES and DOT formed a Salt Reduction Workgroup, made up of representatives of I-93 watershed towns, to help develop salt reduction strategies. While DOT is already at work making technological improvements to highway maintenance equipment, municipal and private roads require different approaches due to the inconsistencies in pavement and configuration of lesser traveled roads. The workgroup hopes to expand to include private road and parking lot owners and maintainers.

To develop salt reduction strategies, the consultant team will facilitate discussions with town highway departments and private parking lot owners, research salt reduction techniques in other states and countries, and identify barriers and behavioral changes needed to reduce salt loading. The consultants will also look into driver behavior and develop recommendations to address any behavior changes that may be necessary to accompany changes in road maintenance practices. This social marketing research will include focus groups of commuters and local drivers.



Streams impaired by salt in the I-93 corridor are shown in red, with their watersheds in yellow. Salt use will need to be reduced by 30-70 percent to meet water quality standards.

The consultant's report is expected in December 2007, and will be used to develop a salt reduction plan that will lead to cleaner water in the I-93 watersheds. ■

## DES PrintSTEP Program collects accolades

The US Environmental Protection Agency recently presented the DES Printer's Simplified Total Environmental Partnership (PrintSTEP) program with its "Office of Compliance Partnership Award." PrintSTEP is a new alternative multi-media flexible regulatory system for printers. The goal of PrintSTEP is to help the printing industry and the public achieve cleaner, cheaper and smarter environmental protection through the creation of a simpler regulatory "framework."

The award was presented to Rudy Cartier and Tara Olson of the Small Business Technical Assistance Program for their tireless efforts, over several years, in designing the state's PrintSTEP program and reaching out to the target community with one-on-one comprehensive technical and compliance assistance. EPA intends to highlight the success of the New Hampshire PrintSTEP program with other state agencies around the country that wish to develop alternative regulatory programs. ■

## 40 Under Forty

Congratulations to Sara Johnson, Pollution Prevention Program Manager, for being recognized by the New Hampshire *Union Leader*, 40 up-and-coming people, all under the age of 40, who are making a difference in New Hampshire. Sara's commitment to reduce pollution to the environment can be seen through her efforts and projects with healthcare facilities, salvage yards, marinas, and schools. ■

# Does a renewable portfolio standard make sense for New Hampshire?

A renewable portfolio standard (RPS) is a policy designed to influence the development of renewable resources. Although the specifics of an RPS may vary from state to state and region to region, an RPS generally requires electricity providers to obtain a minimum percentage of the power they supply to their customers from renewable energy resources by a certain date. For example, in Connecticut, the RPS requires that by 2010, 10 percent of power sold in the state will be from renewable resources. Examples of renewable energy resources include wind, biomass, hydropower, solar, methane gas, geothermal and fuel cells.

RPS policies encourage the development of renewable energy facilities and technologies, thus they help reduce dependence on imported fuels and increase energy security. They also can diversify the supply of electricity and provide a hedge against rising and volatile energy costs. Other benefits of RPS policies include reduction of air pollution – including greenhouse gas emissions – and fostering of new employment and economic development opportunities.

Electricity generation and distribution is a very complicated process and explaining how an RPS works is not easy. Due to the nature of the power pool – also referred to

as the “grid” or “distribution system” – renewable and nonrenewable power cannot be traced from specific power plants to the power pool and back out to a specific customer. In New England, renewable energy certificates (RECs) are the mechanisms used to track power generation from renewable resources. Each REC is a marketable/tradable entity that represents one megawatt hour (1,000 kWh) of power generation from a renewable energy source.

To comply with an RPS, suppliers of electricity must purchase RECs to meet the minimum renewable percentages required by the RPS. If the supplier fails to buy the required levels of RECs, it would be penalized in some way. The revenue from the sale of the RECs goes to the owner of the renewable power plant.

Twenty-three states, including all New England states except New Hampshire, and the District of Columbia, have now adopted RPS requirements. Federal legislation has been proposed in Congress to institute a national RPS, but no legislation has been enacted into law. The New Hampshire Legislature is considering an RPS for New Hampshire in the 2007 legislative session.

For more information on RPS policies and other energy issues, contact Joanne Morin, DES Energy Manager, at (603) 271-5552 or [jmorin@des.state.nh.us](mailto:jmorin@des.state.nh.us). ■



## CELEBRATE EARTH DAY EVERY DAY!

Join DES and Fish & Game at  
WILD New Hampshire Day!  
April 21, 10 am to 3 pm  
Hazen Drive, Concord, NH

For more Earth Day  
events go to  
[www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)

## Attention Air Permit Holders!

Your **2006 annual emissions statement** and **emissions-based fee** are due no later than close of business **Monday, April 16, 2007!**

For calendar year 2006 emissions, the dollar per ton fee rate is **\$90.95**. This is the base fee rate of \$60 per ton of air pollutant multiplied by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) multiplier of 1.5159 and the Inventory Stabilization Factor (ISF) of 1.0000. A **minimum fee** of \$90.95 is due even if total emissions are less than one ton.

Make checks payable to “**Treasurer, State of New Hampshire**” and note somewhere on the check “**air fees**” or “**air emissions.**”

SEND TO: **New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services**  
**Air Resources Division**  
**PO Box 95**  
**Concord, NH 03302-0095**  
**ATTN: Emissions Inventory**

If you have any questions regarding emission factors or emission calculations for calendar year 2006 emissions, please contact Newton Strickland at (603) 271-1370 or [sstrickland@des.state.nh.us](mailto:sstrickland@des.state.nh.us). For additional information on emission-based fees, visit the DES website at [www.des.nh.gov/ard/whatfees.htm](http://www.des.nh.gov/ard/whatfees.htm).

# Hazardous Waste Coordinator Certification Program celebrates its fifth year

By Susan Francesco, Supervisor of Certification Programs

In 2002, the Hazardous Waste Program determined that hazardous waste generators throughout the state were significantly out of compliance with hazardous waste statutes and rules. Statistically it would take state inspectors over 80 years to inspect all 4,000 hazardous waste generators. At that time state funds were dwindling and inspectors lost through attrition were not replaced. It was clear that to conduct monitoring and regulating of

lead to increased compliance. Companies would no longer be out-of-compliance because of lack of knowledge of regulatory requirements.

Since the first class in May 2003, the HWCC Program has conducted an average of 18 full-day training classes annually. Through 2006, nearly 2,850 attendees had attended one or more of the training classes. The average test score over the past four years has remained steady at 87 percent, with 94 percent of the attendees taking the exam for the first time achieving a

passing score of 70 percent or better.

What does all this mean to the state? New Hampshire is the first state in the nation to take such a proactive approach at teaching and certifying its hazardous waste generators on an annual basis. The FQGs learn the basics of hazard-

ous waste compliance first and then follow up annually with refresher training by taking advanced courses such as hazardous waste determination, pollution prevention, contingency planning, inspections and enforcement, or reporting requirements. All New Hampshire businesses need to stay current on regulatory changes and be proactive when it comes to managing their hazardous waste. Due to the success of this program, DES inspectors have seen an improvement in compliance at FQGs, an increase in communication from hazardous waste generators about hazardous

waste issues, an improvement in report quality, and a more accurate assessment of the number of facilities that generate hazardous waste as well as the quantity of waste generated.

The HWCC Program will continue to provide the basic core courses at least every quarter and to develop new advanced module trainings for those coordinators seeking annual recertification. DES would be proud to share its program with other forward-thinking states. To learn more contact Tim Prospert at (603) 271-7837 or [tprospert@des.state.nh.us](mailto:tprospert@des.state.nh.us), or Susan Francesco at (603) 271-2967 or [sfrancesco@des.state.nh.us](mailto:sfrancesco@des.state.nh.us). ■



Robert Hippert (center) of Alltex Uniform Rental Service, became the first hazardous waste coordinator to have completed five consecutive years of training. Sue Francesco and Tim Prospert of the HWCC program pose with Hippert after he received his special recognition.

these 4,000 facilities, something dramatically different had to be done to ensure compliance with hazardous waste requirements.

In May 2003, the Hazardous Waste Coordinator Certification Program was launched for full quantity generators. An FQG is a facility that generates 220 pounds or more of hazardous waste in a month. The HWCC Program was designed to train industry in state rules and federal regulations of hazardous waste management. The underlying premise is the belief that having a trained hazardous waste coordinator on staff at the facility would

## 2006 VRAP reports now online

DES Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP) reports are now available on the DES webpage for 15 rivers monitored during 2006 by VRAP volunteers. The reports and data can be accessed at [www.des.nh.gov/wmb/VRAP](http://www.des.nh.gov/wmb/VRAP).

VRAP Program Manager Ted Walsh said, "VRAP volunteers provide an invaluable service to DES and the public who want to preserve and protect our rivers and streams. The data collected by VRAP volunteers can be used to determine how safe our rivers and streams are for swimming, the quality of habitat for healthy fish populations, and to determine if water quality is changing over time."

Planning for the 2007 monitoring season is already underway. Individuals or organizations interested in participating in VRAP can contact Ted Walsh at (603) 271-2083 or [twalsh@des.state.nh.us](mailto:twalsh@des.state.nh.us). ■

## Report assesses air quality in Suncook Village

In response to a petition to examine air quality and related health effects in Suncook Village, the DES Environmental Health Program (EHP) recently completed a "Public Health Assessment for Ambient Air Quality in Suncook Village." The petition expressed concern regarding emissions from Merrimack Station power plant in Bow. The report includes an evaluation of Suncook area air quality from 2004 to 2006, cancer incidence and hospital emergency room visits for respiratory conditions. Air quality and meteorological data in the report are primarily from the DES air monitoring station located on Exchange Street in Suncook. EHP prepared the report under its cooperative agreement with the US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

The assessment concludes that ambient air in Suncook Village does not present a health hazard to the general population. During the two-year study period, the Suncook area was in compliance with all National Ambient Air Quality Standards. There were infrequent days (or hours) when air pollution reached levels that could result in adverse health effects among asthmatics during outdoor

exertion. These air pollution events fell into two categories: sulfur dioxide events associated primarily with emissions from Merrimack Station transported by strong northwest winds usually during winter; ozone and particulate matter events originating from regional and distant sources involving long-distance transport primarily by southerly winds in summer. A new law (RSA 125-O) passed by the New Hampshire Legislature in 2006 requires Merrimack Station to install new emissions controls, which should eliminate the possibility of any unhealthy sulfur dioxide levels in the future.

The public health assessment was released for public comment in early March 2007; comments will be accepted until April 23, 2007. See [www.des.nh.gov/whatsnew.htm](http://www.des.nh.gov/whatsnew.htm) or call (603) 271-4664 for a copy of the public health assessment. Provide comments to Eric Abrams at [eabrams@des.state.nh.us](mailto:eabrams@des.state.nh.us) or PO Box 95, Concord NH 03302-0095. ■



## HealthySEAT assessment tool for schools now online

The DES Environmental Health Program has been working with school facility managers in New Hampshire over the past year to implement the new EPA Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool or "HealthySEAT." HealthySEAT is a FREE, downloadable software tool that helps public and private school districts evaluate and manage their school facilities for key environmental, safety and health issues.

The HealthySEAT program has been recently customized for New Hampshire web users and can be downloaded from [www.des.nh.gov/ARD/EHP/HSE/HealthySEAT.htm](http://www.des.nh.gov/ARD/EHP/HSE/HealthySEAT.htm). The software will allow New Hampshire school users to conduct self-assessments and track and manage information regarding their facilities. Information entered into the program by specific school districts is not electronically shared with the EPA or the state. HealthySEAT includes critical elements of all of EPA's regulatory and voluntary programs for schools, as well as user-friendly web links to more detailed information and

resources. Integrated in this software are links to specific New Hampshire regulatory and voluntary programs.

HealthySEAT does not replace any of the individual EPA programs available for schools, such as the Tools for Schools program. It is a fully customizable tool for environmental management and tracking, primarily for use by school district maintenance facility directors. DES invites schools to use HealthySEAT to promote local issues and programs and provide a more holistic and integrated approach to providing a healthy and safe environment for children and staff.

New Hampshire has been conducting one-on-one training sessions on the implementation of this beneficial tool. For additional information, comments, or to set up an appointment, please contact Rhonda Martin, DES Environmental Health Program, at (603) 271-3911. ■

[www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)

## DES Wastewater Engineering Bureau receives national award from EPA

The DES Wastewater Operations Section was recently honored at the New England Water Environment Association annual awards luncheon as the recipient of the 2006 EPA National Clean Water Act Award for State Technical Assistance.

The award was presented in conjunction with the Most Improved Plant Award category presented to the Warner Village Water District for DES's on-site technical assistance and training for the facility and all wastewater treatment facilities throughout the state. "It is indicative of the dedication which NHDES staff continues to serve the public to protect water quality and public health, as well a team effort involving local, state and federal officials," added Robert Varney, EPA New England regional director.

DES staff recognized for this achievement include John Bush, Bureau Administrator, George Neill, Operations Section Supervisor, Mary Jane Meier, Wes Ripple, Tom White, Marie Polichronopoulos, and Beth Malcolm. ■

### Earth Day Tips

Use the double-sided feature whenever you copy or print.

Consider driving to your vacation destination if it's reasonably close. Flying is the most polluting type of travel in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.

A good way of participating in forest conservation is to purchase only "certified sustainably grown" wood products, created from wood collected in sustainably managed forests.

### Earth Day Quiz: How Green Can You Get?

- I turn off the water while I brush my teeth.
- I carpool more than once a week.
- I drive a hybrid, electric, or other alternative fuel vehicle.
- I compost food waste from my kitchen and garden.
- I use solar power or buy green electricity.
- I recycle toxic items that require special handling such as paint, household cleansers and batteries.
- When I leave a room, I turn off the lights.
- I've weatherproofed my home, eliminating drafts from windows and doors.
- The dishwasher in my house is used only when fully loaded.
- For local errands, I walk or bike.
- I keep my car's tires properly inflated to improve fuel efficiency.
- I eat as much local produce as I can.
- At work, I turn off my computer screen when I'm away from my desk.
- My home has mostly compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- I donate money or time to environmental organizations.

#### How did you score?

0-5 points: It's never too late to start thinking long-term. Small changes can make a big difference over time.

6-10 points: Great job, keep up the recycling! Remember how much an individual can change the world.

11-15 points: Congratulations, you are in the eco-elite! Concerned about the environment, you are already trying to keep your impact on our planet to a minimum. And even though you already do so much, there's still more to do.

## Governor's Message

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hours of enjoyment for our citizens and our visitors. We must continue to work to make sure our state park system is vibrant, and meets the demands of our population. That's why in my budget I included funding to help purchase Temple Mountain and to add it to the state park system, providing an important new recreational opportunity for people in southern New Hampshire.

We must also look at making a long-term commitment to upgrading our state parks. My budget also includes \$6 million in capital funds to begin repairs and renovations at state parks across our state – the first system-wide capital investments in our parks since 1963.

We must continue to act to preserve and enhance our clean air and clean water. Last session, we passed important legislation to significantly reduce mercury from Merrimack Station. In addition, I was pleased to sign into law a moratorium on the burning of toxic construction and demolition debris.

However, our work is not complete. The burning of this dangerous material poses an unnecessary danger to the health of our citizens and the health of our environment. That is why I advocate a permanent ban on the burning of construction and demolition debris here in New Hampshire. A moratorium is not enough because the risks are too great. I am pleased to see the legislature is moving forward on this issue.

Also, I have set a goal that 25 percent of New Hampshire's energy come from renewable sources by 2025. Passing a Renewable Portfolio Standard is an important part of that plan. A Renewable Portfolio Standard will add to our existing base of renewable energy. It will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and carbon fuels, and by

putting New Hampshire at the forefront of this emerging industry, it will create jobs. This is good for the environment and good for New Hampshire's economy.

In my first term as governor, I issued an Executive Order directing state agencies to do a better job of reducing and tracking their energy use, to buy Energy Star products and more energy-efficient vehicles, and to consider energy efficiency in new construction and renovation. We, as a state, must continue to build on these efforts. That is why I have asked the

Department of Environmental Services to begin developing a Climate Change Action Plan that works for New Hampshire. I look forward to working with the department, as well as lawmakers, on developing the components of this plan.

We must continue to preserve what is special about New Hampshire. As Governor, I will continue to work with DES, as well as other state agencies, to ensure we are doing all we can to protect our environment for today and for the future.

John Lynch, *Governor*

### 2007 BIA/DES Consultants Day Waste Management Seminar Center of New Hampshire Manchester, NH

April 17, 2007



Come hear the latest developments within the DES Waste Management Division. Topics to be presented will include new rules, including Env-Or 600 Contaminated Site Management and Env-Or 700 Groundwater Release Detection Permits; department funding, priorities, and challenges; and the latest information on vapor intrusion.



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