

## COMMISSIONER'S COLUMN

### A winter-time checklist

I love the month of January in New Hampshire – winter snows and the cold crisp days. And I find New Year's to be a perfect time to reflect on how I can do a better job of maintaining a healthy home for my family, saving energy and money while making a difference for our environment. Our environment, after all, is the keystone of the wonderful quality of life that we all enjoy here in New Hampshire. So join me in checking off these five New Year's resolutions:

- Heating system tune up
- "Burn (firewood) Wise"
- Program your thermostat
- Get your home tested for radon
- Install a carbon monoxide detection alarm

First, have your home's heating system checked by a professional. Most of us know that we need to change our car's oil regularly, so why don't we have our home's heating system checked seasonally to ensure that it is operating efficiently and safely? Schedule reminders on your calendar to clean or change the air filter in your heating system monthly. Some filters only need to be changed every three months. These steps will help your system run more efficiently, which will save you money on fuel costs and cut down on unnecessary pollution.

Commissioner, *continued on page 8*

## CLEARING THE AIR

### DES submits Regional Haze Plan

Mountain vistas will be grander thanks to New Hampshire's Regional Haze Plan, which was recently submitted to EPA.

For the better part of a decade, DES has engaged in a planning effort with EPA and other Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce a form of air pollution known as

regional haze. Haze is caused by emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and particulate matter – especially those from fossil-fuel-fired power plants – that can travel great distances over a wide geographic area. Not only do

Regional Haze, *continued on page 2*



*Split view of Mt. Washington Valley and the Presidential Range on clear and hazy days.*

### Legislative Stormwater Commission completes final report

The legislative commission to study the issues relating to stormwater was established in 2008. Over the course of two years, the 20-member stakeholder commission researched stormwater as it relates to water quality, water supply, flooding, drought hazards, climate change and land use change. They also studied existing federal, state and local stormwater regulations, the adequacy of conventional stormwater management practices, and options for sustainable funding.

The work of the commission is documented in its final report, which was submitted to the legislature in early November 2010. In addition to a discussion of their findings, the report details a set of recommendations that the commission believes, if implemented, will improve stormwater management in the state and reduce the negative impacts of stormwater on New Hampshire's water resources.

Stormwater Commission, *continued on page 2*

## Stormwater Commission

continued from page 1

Recommendations of the Commission include amending state law to:

- Define the term “stormwater.”
- Clarify that all property owners are responsible for stormwater originating from their property.
- Create a statewide, watershed-based, stormwater utility program with local options that could be phased in over a period of years.
- Clearly enable and require municipalities to regulate stormwater within their boundaries.

The commission recommendations are discussed in greater detail in the final report available at [www.gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/default.aspx](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/default.aspx). ■

### Attention: Rock Crushing Plants! Informational Workshops Scheduled for Jan. & Feb.

**D**ES recently adopted new rules regarding non-metallic mineral processing plants, commonly known as rock crushing plants or rock crushers. The new rules, Env-A 2800, are intended to protect air quality in New Hampshire, as well as simplify the air permitting process for these source types. Learn more about these new rules on January 26 in Concord or February 8 in Lincoln; both workshops are scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon. For more information or to register, contact Sara Johnson at (603) 271-1379 or [sara.johnson@des.nh.gov](mailto:sara.johnson@des.nh.gov). ■

## Regional Haze

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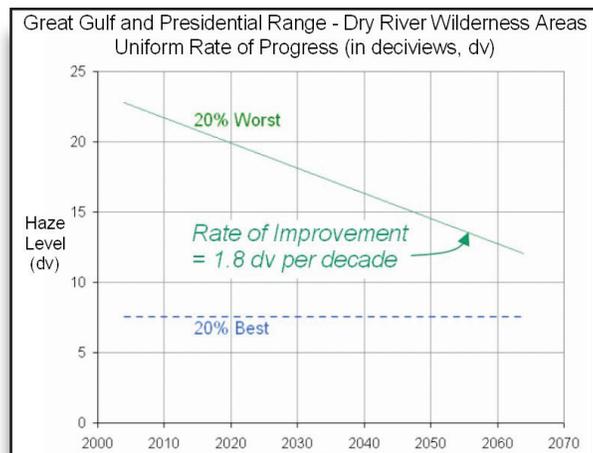
these emissions have adverse health consequences for affected populations, they also impair visibility in our most cherished national scenic areas.

Recognizing the regional haze problem, Congress included requirements for visibility protection of federal Class I areas (national parks and wilderness areas) in the 1977 Clean Air Act Amendments. The two Class I areas in New Hampshire's White Mountains that will benefit directly from efforts to control regional haze are the Presidential Range-Dry River Wilderness and the Great Gulf Wilderness.

EPA's 1999 Regional Haze Rule called for states with Class I areas to establish reasonable progress goals for visibility improvement and to formulate a long-term strategy for meeting these goals. The rule also mandated that control measures be implemented for certain existing emission sources placed into operation between 1962 and 1977.

Each state's Regional Haze Plan will be submitted as a revision to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). New Hampshire's SIP revision, currently in draft form, includes proposed administrative rules to reduce emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and particulate matter from older, fossil-fuel-fired power plants. At press time, the proposed rules—[Chapter Env-A 2300 Mitigation of Regional Haze](#)—were expected to be adopted as final in early January 2011.

Don't look for dramatic improvements in visibility overnight. It has taken decades to bring us to the current levels of visibility impairment, and it will require decades more to undo the pollution that causes regional haze.



Visibility is projected to show gradual improvement over the next several decades and should achieve natural visibility conditions on the 20% worst visibility days by 2064.

New Hampshire and other states are on track to restore visibility to natural levels on the haziest days by 2064.

For a copy of the draft Regional Haze SIP revision, see: [www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/do/asab/rhp/index.htm](http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/do/asab/rhp/index.htm). For more information on regional haze, contact Charlie Martone at (603) 271-1089 or [charles.martone@des.nh.gov](mailto:charles.martone@des.nh.gov). ■

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

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## COMING UP

### January

26 **Rock Crusher Workshop, Concord**

### February

8 **Rock Crusher Workshop, Lincoln**

4-5 **NH Farm & Forest Expo, Manchester**

### March

25-26 **Water & Watershed Conference, Plymouth**

## January is National Radon Action Month

Winter is a good time to be aware of the potential for radon gas in our homes, because our windows are closed and we spend more time indoors. Radon is a tasteless, colorless and odorless naturally-occurring radioactive gas that results from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil and rocks. Radon can get into the air you breathe and the water you drink. It is important for New Hampshire residents to test their homes and private well water for radon, as the "Granite State" has higher-than-average radon levels and exposure potential.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking and the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. In New Hampshire it is estimated that radon causes more than 100 lung cancer deaths per year.

Testing for radon in air and water is inexpensive, and do-it-yourself test kits can be purchased via the Internet and at major hardware stores. Testing is the only way to know if your home or well water has elevated radon levels. A radon measurement professional can also be hired to conduct a radon test for air and water.

For more information on testing for radon in your air and water, contact the DES Radon Program at (603) 271-6845 or visit [des.nh.gov](http://des.nh.gov) and search for "Radon." ■

## RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

### Rick Chormann presented with the 2010 David S. Chase Memorial Award

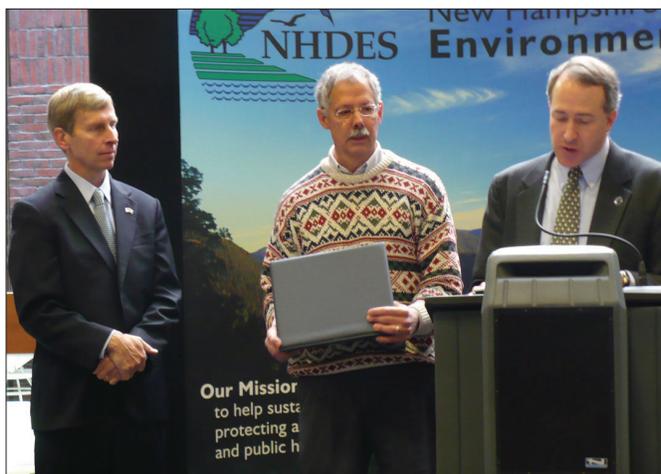
Frederick H. "Rick" Chormann, Jr. was recently presented with the David S. Chase Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievements in Science.

Rick has, time and time again, taken proactive steps, and maximized resources using creativity, insight and

graphy Dataset for New Hampshire, essentially a digital map with associated databases of all of the state's surface waters, is a hugely valuable tool for programs across DES, and really owes its existence and robustness to Rick's efforts. Likewise, the state's network

of long-term groundwater monitoring wells is more comprehensive than it would have been without Rick's efforts to incorporate wells previously drilled, but slated to be abandoned, by the US Geological Survey.

Throughout Rick's 20-plus year career at DES, his initiative



Gov. John Lynch, 2010 Chase Award Winner Rick Chormann, and Commissioner Tom Burack.

integrity to enhance the water, environmental, geologic, and mapping programs for the state of New Hampshire. Rick has improved the science, data collection, and accessibility of information for DES, as well as the public at large.

Rick thoroughly reviews the current scientific literature from some of the top geosciences journals to use new scientific methods to keep New Hampshire Geological Survey products on the cutting edge of science. Rick has been on the forefront of using GIS technology at DES, and took a leading role in advancing the Fluvial Geomorphology Program, designed to provide scientific support to both DES and other state agencies in addressing flooding and resource protection issues along the state's rivers. The National Hydrog-

and care to create accurate and scientifically viable databases accessible through the DES website has provided invaluable information to countless well drillers, scientists, regulators and the public. Rick has made innumerable contributions to the fields of hydrography, geology and mapping in support of the DES mission to help sustain a high quality of life for all by protecting and restoring the environment and public health in New Hampshire. ■

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## RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

# Steve Landry— 2010 DES Employee of the Year

Stephen Landry, Merrimack Watershed Supervisor, is the 2010 DES Employee of the Year because he excels in so many areas and inspires DES employees and New Hampshire citizens alike with his dedication, leadership and public service.

Steve shouldered the load to address changes in the Suncook River brought about when the river suddenly changed course during the Mother's Day Flood of 2006. Steve took action to address the situation by leading a geomorphic analysis to identify possible alternatives and select the best solution. He worked tirelessly to raise funds, attended numerous public meetings, and is responsible for the great progress made to date in addressing what will be a long-term effort to stabilize the river in its new channel while also protecting lives and property in the river corridor.

Another example of Steve's leadership is the Black Brook restoration project in Manchester. Along with Jeff Marcoux, Steve took swift action to preserve historical ice harvesting artifacts that were exposed in the sediment washed away when the Maxwell Pond dam was removed. Steve and Jeff were presented the prestigious "Preservation of Historic Artifacts" award by the Manchester Historic Association

in 2010 for this effort.

Steve is a tremendous leader within the DES community as well. As he did during Steve Couture's first tour of duty in Iraq, Steve Landry led the "DES Couture Support Crew" to make sure

that Couture and his fellow soldiers were made as comfortable as possible during his second tour. It is a tribute to Steve Landry's leadership that the Department of Defense recognized DES in 2010 with the "Above and Beyond Award" for the support provided to Steve Couture, his unit and his family. In addition, each year Steve captains the DES team in the state agency competition at the SEA 5K road

race. It is no stretch to say that Steve's enthusiasm and leadership have had a lot to do with DES winning that event 15 out of the last 16 years, including the 2010 race.

Steve's environmental work doesn't end at DES. As a volunteer, he is vice chair of the Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee and leads the most extensive volunteer river biological monitoring program in the state.

Steve is a leader with a true public service ethic, a hard worker who knows how to build and sustain personal relationships, and an inspiration to all DES employees. ■



*Steve Landry, center, receives plaudits from Gov. Lynch, left, Commissioner Burack, and fellow nominees upon being named the 2010 DES Employee of the Year.*

## OneStop database receives upgrade

Frequent users of the DES OneStop database have already noticed the difference—for the better!

After months of sorting data and testing functionality, the OneStop Redesign Team "soft launched" the renewed and revised OneStop database before the holidays. Over the next several weeks, bugs were worked out of the system with the help of users' constructive comments.

OneStop, which is directly accessible from the [DES home page](#), is a user-friendly, online, searchable database comprised of environmental information and data compiled by DES programs. OneStop does not provide access to all existing DES data, however. Available information includes: sources of environmental interest, GIS data, environmental monitoring data, ordering sampling equipment for environmental testing, permit status, and information on local businesses that provide various environmental services, ranging from hazardous waste transportation to water well contractors.

So what is new on OneStop?

The new features include the ability to:

- Use a single search page to retrieve selected DES information by location.
- Search by general areas of interest, e.g., air or water related interests, fuel storage leaks.
- Search by specific areas of interest, e.g., public water systems, underground storage tanks.
- Locate most individual sites using a "Map It" tool.
- Access search help and provide comments from the top menu bar.

New and revised databases will be added as they become available. We welcome your comments and suggestions for improvements to the site. ■

## PROTECTING QUALITY OF LIFE

### Unprecedented nine rivers seeking state protection designation

The state's Rivers Management and Protection Program, or RMPP, received an unprecedented four nominations in 2010 seeking the designation of nine rivers, totaling over 126 miles across the state. The nomination of the Mascoma, Oyster, Lower Exeter and Squamscott rivers, and the currently undesignated sections of the Lamprey River with its major tributaries (the North Branch, North, Little, Pawtuckaway and Piscassic rivers) represents a tremendous effort of local citizens to demonstrate to the state the value their communities' place on their rivers. Since the establishment of the RMPP in 1988, 16 rivers have been accepted for designation for their outstanding resources, values and characteristics.

The most significant benefit of river designation is a collective statement by local residents and the state that a particular river is a unique and important resource deserving of protection. Each of this year's nominations had unique reasons for seeking designation, but all the reasons stem from a desire to protect and maintain quality of life in the state. A river designation gives a river an extra level of state protection for significant instream river resources, particularly water quality and instream flows. Because the river management plan is locally developed, adopted and implemented, it reflects the specific needs, interests and concerns of the local citizenry.

For more information about the river nominations or the RMPP, contact Steve Couture, Rivers Coordinator, at (603) 271-8801 or [steven.couture@des.nh.gov](mailto:steven.couture@des.nh.gov); or go to <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/index.htm>. ■

### 2010 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention presented

Fujifilm Dimatix Inc. in Lebanon and Wire Belt Company of America in Londonderry are winners of the 2010 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention, which recognizes outstanding pollution prevention practices in businesses and organizations. Gov. Lynch and DES Commissioner Tom Burack presented the award to both companies on January 10 in the Governor's Chamber in Concord.

Dimatix received the award for making innovative process changes to eliminate hazardous wastes and reduce energy consumption. The company was able to eliminate over 2,100 gallons/year of hazardous waste and save over 1 million kilowatt hours of electricity, which is the equivalent of eliminating 792 tons of power plant emissions per year.

Wire Belt received the award for its energy reduction projects, Environmental Management System, and its work with the DES Aspiring Leadership Initiative. Through its efforts, which included installation of a 100 kilowatt

solar photovoltaic array, it saved over 800,000 kwh, which is equal to the elimination of 633 tons of power plant air emissions. Wire Belt also implemented a waste reduction program that resulted in an annual reduction of 191,000 pounds of solid waste and 237,000 pounds of raw material.

Both companies have benefited financially from their efforts as well, realizing a combined savings of over \$180,000 annually.

Fujifilm Dimatix and Wire Belt Company of America are being recognized for their dedication to pollution prevention and continued focus on innovative ways to be more energy efficient, use fewer raw materials and create less waste.

Contact the NH Pollution Prevention Program at (603) 271-0878 or [NHP-PP@des.nh.gov](mailto:NHP-PP@des.nh.gov) for ways to implement pollution prevention strategies or visit <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/p2au/ppp/index.htm> for more information on pollution prevention activities and programs. ■



The NH Food Bank, which serves food pantries across the state, received more than 16,000 food items and other nonperishable supplies from DES employees and nine other state agencies. This DOT truck was filled before it left 29 Hazen! It's the second year that state agencies have challenged each other to collect donations for the food bank.

## State participates in transportation, climate initiative

In June of 2010, New Hampshire joined 10 other states and the District of Columbia in the creation of the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) – a regional collaboration that will help states address greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. Top transportation, environment and energy officials, including DES Commissioner Burack, DOT Commissioner George Campbell, and PUC Commissioner Clifton Below, signed a declaration of intent to work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimize the transportation system’s reliance on high-carbon fuels, advance transportation technologies, promote sustainable growth and address the challenges of vehicle miles traveled, and help build the clean energy economy.

Besides New Hampshire, participating states include Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and the District of Columbia. The initiative seeks to build upon ongoing federal, state and regional collaborations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

TCI seeks to support and expand the work underway in states to make communities more sustainable and promote more efficient transportation modes, including in rural states like Vermont and New Hampshire where commuting distances are greater and transportation options may be limited. To that end, a recent video segment was produced to highlight the work of the award-winning Upper Valley Transportation Management Association (TMA). The Upper Valley TMA is a private/public partnership operating in the Lebanon/Hanover area in both New Hampshire and Vermont, whose goal is to provide leadership and education to promote planning, development, and implementation of transportation initiatives to mitigate traffic congestion and reduce reliance on single occupant vehicle commuting. The video segment will be combined with segments from other TCI states to demonstrate the variety of ways in which the goals of TCI can be met, such as cleaner fuels, sustainable development patterns, and improved freight movement, to name a few. The completed video will be made available to states to help inform decision makers of the potential for the work of the TCI to benefit both the environment and economies of their state.

Participating states are working to develop a three-year work plan of initial project proposals and potential funding opportunities. For more information on the Transportation and Climate Initiative and the status of the work plan, contact Rebecca Ohler at (603) 271-6749 or [rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov](mailto:rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov). ■

## 2010 Longevity Awards

### 35 YEARS

James B. Gill	WD
Robert C. Lyon	CO

### 25 YEARS

Michael J. Walls	CO
Roy D. Gilbreth	WD
Patricia A. Hannon	WD
David S. Leathers	WMD
John M. Regan	WMD
Nancy M. Kursewicz	WMD
Teresa M. Ferrara	CO
Lisa A. Fortier	WD
Richard P. Schofield	WD
Charles P. Berube	WMD
Edward R. Kirpolenko	WD
Sarah Pillsbury	WD
Maureen A. Estabrook	WMD
Michael E. Galuszka	WMD

### 20 YEARS

Deborah E. Soule	WD
Timothy J. Verville	ARD
Anne M. Keach	ARD
Cheryl F. McGary	WMD
Mark A. Corliss	WD
Richard C. Skarinka	WD
Alan H. Moulton	ARD
Mary Ann Tilton	WD

### 15 YEARS

Brenda D. Constant	WD
Barbara McMillan	WD
Robert R. Scott	ARD
David S. Gordon	ARD

James R. Poisson	ARD
Chip Mackey	WD
Grace E. Levergood	WD
Jocelyn S. Degler	WD
Ray Gordon	WD

### 10 YEARS

Derek S. Bennett	WD
Christian P. Williams	WD
Brandon M. Kernen	WD
Maria L. Michel	WMD
Craig D. Rennie	WD
Todd A. Moore	ARD
Joann Robinson	WD
David E. Neils	WD
Leah L. McKenna	WD
Michael P. O’Brien	ARD
Tina M. Wells	CO
Elaine M. Bolduc	CO
Carolyn B. Russell	CO
Craig M. Shippee	WD
Susan A. Willoughby	WD
Alicia C. Carlson	WD
Barbara L. Hoffman	ARD
Padmaja Baru	ARD
Ann-Marie Smith	CO
Laura J. Kieronski	WMD
Dale R. Keirstead	WD
Amy C. Clark	WD
Chris Hipkiss	WD
Timothy D. Sweatt	WD
Debra A. Sonderegger	WD
Sara J. Johnson	CO
Kathleen A. Drake	WD

## Ammonoosuc River LAC recognized by North Country Council

At its recent annual meeting, the North Country Council presented the Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee with the Colonel Oliver Nelson Environmental Award, an annual award presented to a person, organization or community that represents the vision and innovative spirit that Nelson so often demonstrated.

The Ammonoosuc River LAC is comprised of 15 members who represent the seven river corridor towns and the unincorporated places that lie in the headwaters of the Ammonoosuc River, which is one of 16 protected rivers under the state’s Rivers Management and Protection Program. The committee has been working with NCC to develop the Ammonoosuc River Corridor management plan.

For more information, please see the [RMPP web page](#). ■

## CHANGING THE PARADIGM

# Waste generators and regulators create successful program

After years of performing inspections, it became obvious that even the most sophisticated hazardous waste generators were unable to stay current with the hazardous waste rules to maintain compliance. So in 2003, DES created the Hazardous Waste Coordinator Certification Program, which requires each business that creates large quantities of hazardous waste to have at least one staff person at the facility certified by DES to be knowledgeable in the state's *Hazardous Waste Rules*.

While initially viewed as an oner-

ous environmental requirement, the regulated community now recognizes it as a benefit. Almost two-thirds of the 6,000 attendees to date are multiple staff from the same large facility, staff from nonobligatory smaller generators, transporters and consultants.

Information coming directly from the regulators is consistent and accurate, and regulated parties now have far more knowledge about hazardous waste rules, as well as an open forum to share thoughts and questions with regulators and other generators. An unexpected result of this communica-

tion is that confusing or "grey" issues in the regulations are brought to the surface, forcing timely solutions or clarifications. In turn, DES has an opportunity to emphasize "problem areas" in training that are seen during inspections.

An even more positive result may be improved trust between DES and hazardous waste generators. Not all problems and fears can be resolved through training, but giving generators an opportunity to put a face to regulators and know them as individuals has helped to alleviate some of the apprehensions and further improve communication.

This program has proven to be a powerful and effective tool in improving compliance. While many more and different challenges face DES and the certification program, it represents a part of what makes New Hampshire a favorable environment for business. ■

## BROWNFIELDS UPDATE

# Teamwork saves historic site in Berlin

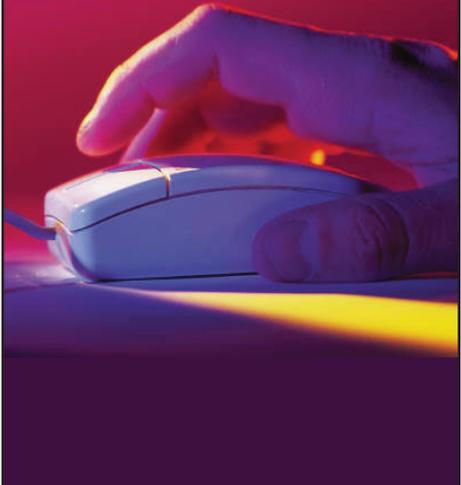
DES and Northern Forest Heritage Park have worked to clean up the Brown Company R&D building site in Berlin since 2000. DES assistance included grants of technical services for assessment, cleanup planning, engineering cleanup oversight and cleanup funding. To date, more than \$1.15 million in DES and EPA Brownfields funding has been provided. GZA GeoEnvironmental and Sanborn, Head & Associates provided engineering assistance to DES in this effort.

The facility, which was associated with the paper mill, was constructed between 1915 and 1919 and consists of two, two-story buildings. It housed one of the nation's first industrial research and development centers and is credited with more than 750 patents. Its construction represents one of the earliest uses of concrete roof supporting beams in the US. Research ceased in 1985; the facility was permanently closed in the 1990s and fell into disrepair.

Conditions requiring action included hazardous building materials, PCB-contaminated soils, and mercury-contaminated flooring. Cleanup of the east wing building and adjacent soils are near completion. Cleanup of the west wing building and adjacent soils will proceed once additional funding is secured.

In October, the site was placed on the New Hampshire Historic Preservation Alliance's 2010 "Seven To Save" list. The listing identifies the site as one of the most at-risk historical resources in the state and is expected to lead to greater access to preservation funding.

Tri-County Community Actions Programs acquired the site to facilitate preservation of the buildings as a living museum and North Country visitor center run by the adjacent Northern Forest Heritage Park. Planned redevelopment includes park and rental office space, exhibit space, a visitor center, and an educational, hands-on, paper-making and testing laboratory. ■



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## Commissioner

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Second, Burn (firewood) Wise. Many in New Hampshire rely on wood-burning stoves to heat their homes. There are some common sense steps that are key operating these appliances efficiently and safely, including burning only dry, well-seasoned wood. Properly seasoned wood is darker, has cracks in the end grain, and sounds hollow when smacked against another piece of wood. Also, wood burns best when the moisture content is less than 20 percent. You can purchase a wood moisture meter to test the moisture content of your wood before you burn it. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Burn Wise program has a lot of great additional information at <http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/>.

Next, take advantage of a programmable thermostat. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the average homeowner can save 10 percent a year on their heating costs by setting back their thermostat 10 to 15 degrees for at least eight hours each day. This is easier than it sounds. By using a programmable thermostat, which are widely available for sale at any home improvement store and are considered an easy do-it-yourself project to install, you can set the thermostat to lower temperatures for times when you and your family are out of the house and for periods when you are sleeping.

Fourth, test your home for radon. January is National Radon Awareness Month. DES recommends that both the interior air of all homes and private drinking water wells be tested for radon. There are "do-it-yourself" radon test kits you can get through the mail and at home improvement/hardware stores. If you prefer, or if you are buying or selling a home, you can hire a nationally-certified radon measurement professional to conduct the tests.

Unfortunately, many of us choose not to have our air and water tested. I can honestly say that it took me longer than it should have to have my house tested. Perhaps it is because radon is something that is hard to grasp. It is, after all, an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas. Sadly, however, radon accounts for approximately 100 deaths per year in New Hampshire, making radon the most deadly issue that DES deals with. To learn more about radon in New Hampshire, visit DES's website ([www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)) and search the A to Z list for "Radon."

Last, ALL homeowners are urged to install carbon monoxide (CO) detection alarms. CO is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. During these winter months, our use of fuel for heating increases, thereby increasing the potential for elevated levels of carbon monoxide inside our homes and places of work.

Nationwide, hundreds of people die accidentally every year from CO poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning furnaces or appliances. Accord-

ing to the state fire marshal's office, several deaths occur in New Hampshire every year. Infants, elderly people, unborn babies, and people with anemia or with a history of heart or respiratory disease can be especially susceptible. Symptoms of CO poisoning may include headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion. Do not ignore symptoms, particularly if more than one person is feeling them. If you suspect CO poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately, and then call 911. For more life saving information on CO, visit [www.nh.gov/co](http://www.nh.gov/co).

I realize that most, if not all, of these tips are things you have all heard before, but have you checked them off your winter-time list this year? If the answer is no, then please take the time to do them. Your family and the environment will thank you.

Tom Burack , *Commissioner*



*At the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual New Hampshire Economic Development Summit held recently in Manchester, the NH Department of Resources & Economic Development presented DES with the "Commissioner's Teamwork Award" for its efforts to streamline permitting processes for New Hampshire businesses. DES Commissioner Burack accepted the award from DRED Commissioner George Bald.*



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