

PA COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED
POLICY ON HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
JANUARY 2007

The improper storage, transportation, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes within Pennsylvania pose a potential threat to human health and the environmental quality of the Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania Trout understands that Pennsylvania is responsible for the proper management of hazardous wastes consistent with our established goals for environmental quality, especially as these practices impact the Commonwealth's cold water resources.

PA Trout supports a comprehensive hazardous waste management strategy that is directed to such wastes within Pennsylvania including the types, quantities, and generators.

PA Trout adopts the following principles as policy guidelines in support of implementation of a responsible hazardous waste management plan:

1. Source reduction and recycling must be the primary focus of Pennsylvania's hazardous waste management scheme. Where not feasible, the following alternatives should be implemented:
 - Conversion to re-usable byproducts
 - Chemical treatment to render wastes non-hazardous
 - Thermal destruction
2. Land disposal of hazardous wastes shall not be considered as an acceptable alternative to the treatment/disposal methods outlined above.
3. An up-to-date, accurate assessment of the types, quantities, and production estimates of these wastes, by regions (identified as a percentage of the total of each type of waste) as well as available existing treatment/disposal capacity, should be conducted immediately and updated annually, to provide essential planning information before sitings of any new processing or disposal facilities are approved.
4. Pennsylvania has a responsibility to manage its own hazardous wastes. Management must comply with Commonwealth and Federal laws and regulations.
5. Proper management and disposal of hazardous wastes must address the following:
 - Potential toxicity of the wastes to be managed at the facility
 - Proposed air quality emissions
 - Disposal site design
 - Operational oversight
 - Current and future siting requirements
 - Transportation corridors
 - Spill prevention, mitigation and response, both on- and off-site.

6. Hazardous waste disposal or processing facilities can be sited only after citizen involvement in all phases of project development. Public need shall be firmly established for each proposed facility. The permitting agency must ensure that ample environmental impairment insurance and long-term facility bonding requirements are met.
7. A comprehensive hazardous waste management program must include a state-wide program to collect, process, and dispose of household hazardous wastes, thus assuring that they are not improperly disposed of in municipal landfills not designed for the disposal of such wastes.
8. Above ground long-term storage of hazardous wastes shall be prohibited.