



## **WASTE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROGRAM ANNUAL SUMMARY 2016**

### **Overview**

The Waste Transportation Safety Program (WTSP) was established in 2002 by the [Waste Transportation Safety Act](#) (Act 90) to protect public health, safety and welfare, and the environment by ensuring the responsible and safe transportation of municipal and residual waste. The Act requires vehicles transporting municipal or residual waste to waste processing or disposal facilities in Pennsylvania to have a valid Waste Transporter Authorization issued by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Specifically, the Act's intent is to:

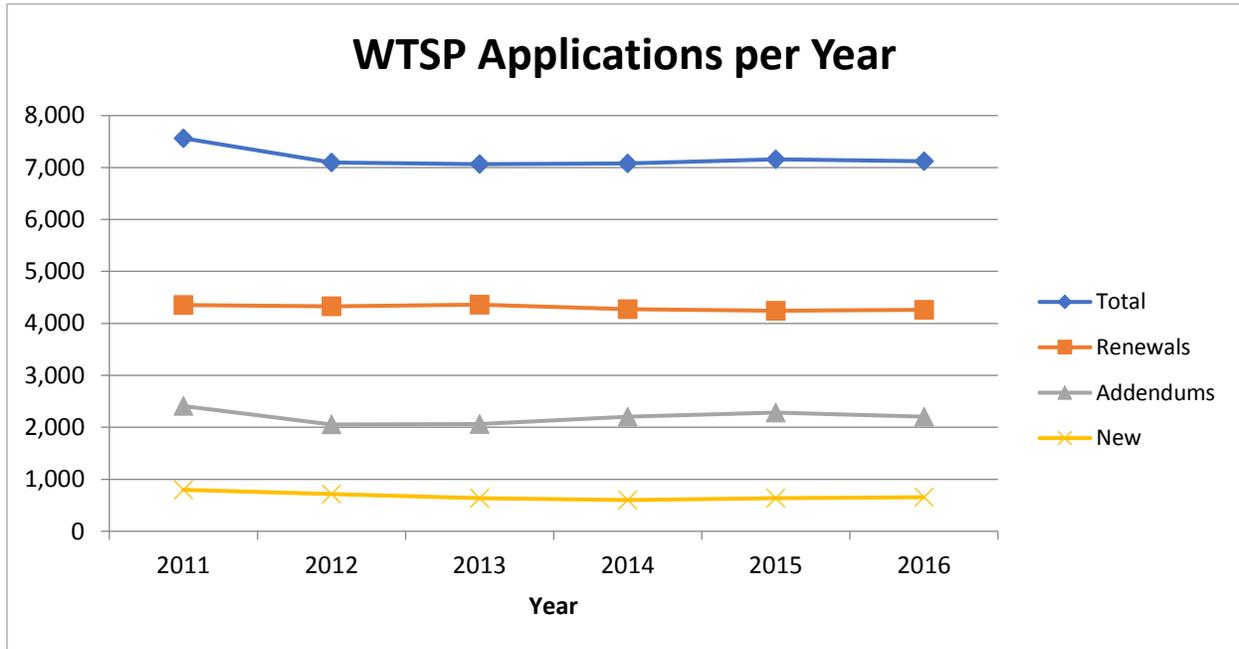
- Ensure the responsible and safe transportation of municipal or residual waste to processing and disposal facilities by requiring written authorization from DEP;
- Prohibit a waste processing or disposal facility from accepting municipal or residual waste from a waste transportation vehicle engaged in commerce without a valid authorization sticker issued by DEP;
- Provide DEP with the authority to deny or revoke written authorization where the agency finds that the transporter has failed or continues to fail to comply with applicable laws and regulations; and
- Establish a transportation authorization fee for the administration and enforcement of this program.

The law applies to trucks and truck tractors with a registered gross vehicle weight greater than 17,000 lbs., and trailers with a registered gross vehicle weight greater than 10,000 lbs. The fee for the authorization is \$100 per truck or \$50 per truck tractor and \$50 per waste trailer. Processing and disposal facilities may not accept waste from waste transportation vehicles that do not have a valid authorization. Authorizations are issued by DEP's WTSP.

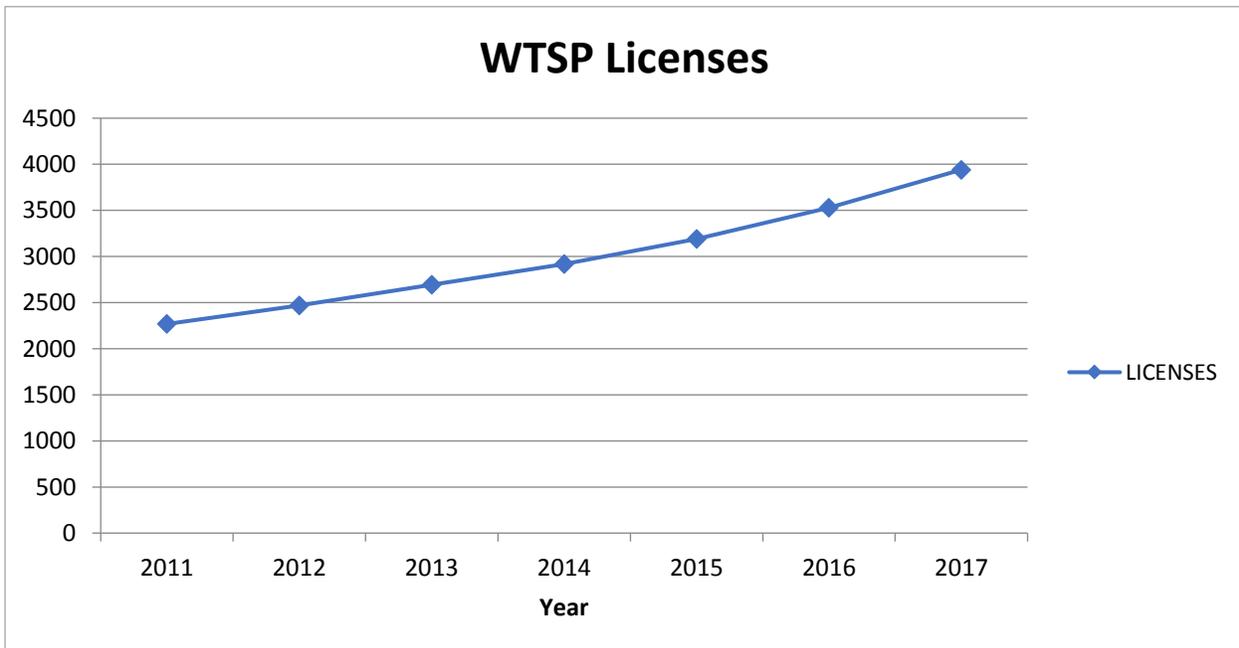
DEP's WTSP was established in July 2002 and, until October 2007, issued interim (temporary) authorizations to waste haulers. In November 2007, the department began issuing final authorizations to haulers. At the same time, the WTSP implemented an online application process for new, renewal and addendum requests. Since implementing the process to issue final authorizations and annual renewals, the WTSP has become financially self-sufficient. Revenue generated by the registration process is deposited into the Waste Transportation Safety Account that is used to fund DEP staff for program administration and waste transportation vehicle compliance. This summary provides an update on the status of the program.

## Authorization Processing

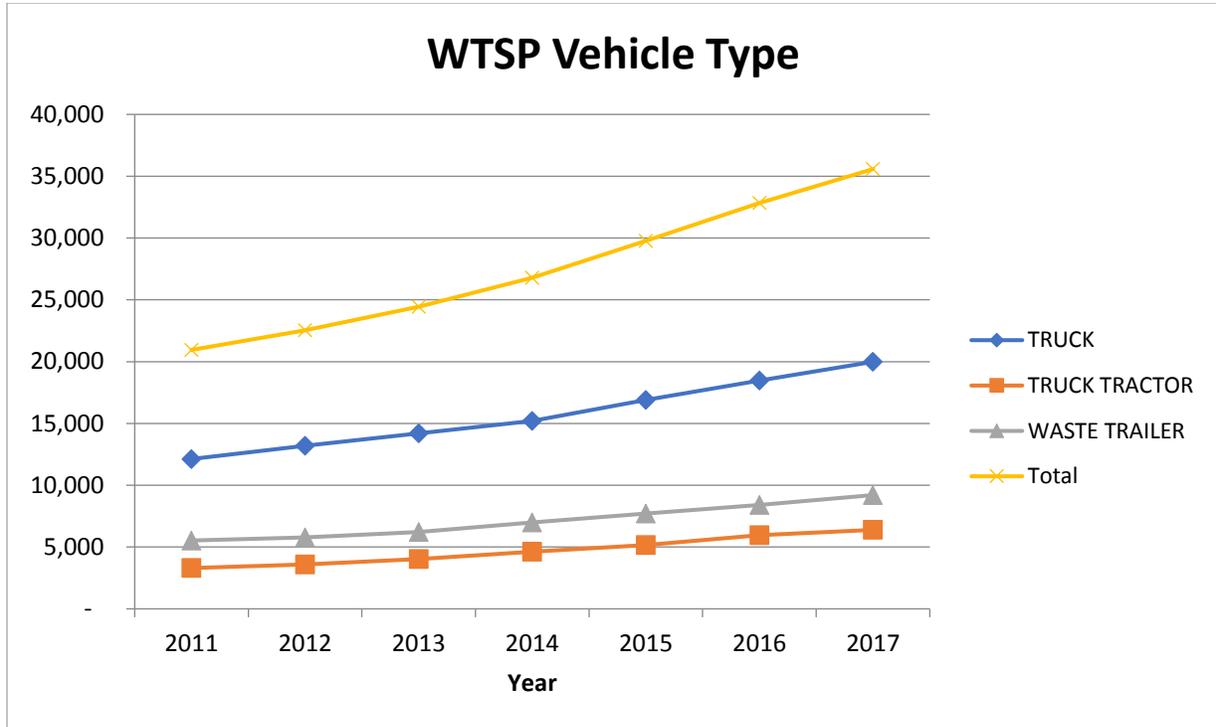
**Authorizations:** The total number of WTSP applications decreased slightly from 7,161 applications in 2015 to 7,121 applications in 2016. The number of renewals, new applications and addendums (adding or removing vehicles to or from an existing authorization) has been relatively steady over the last several years.



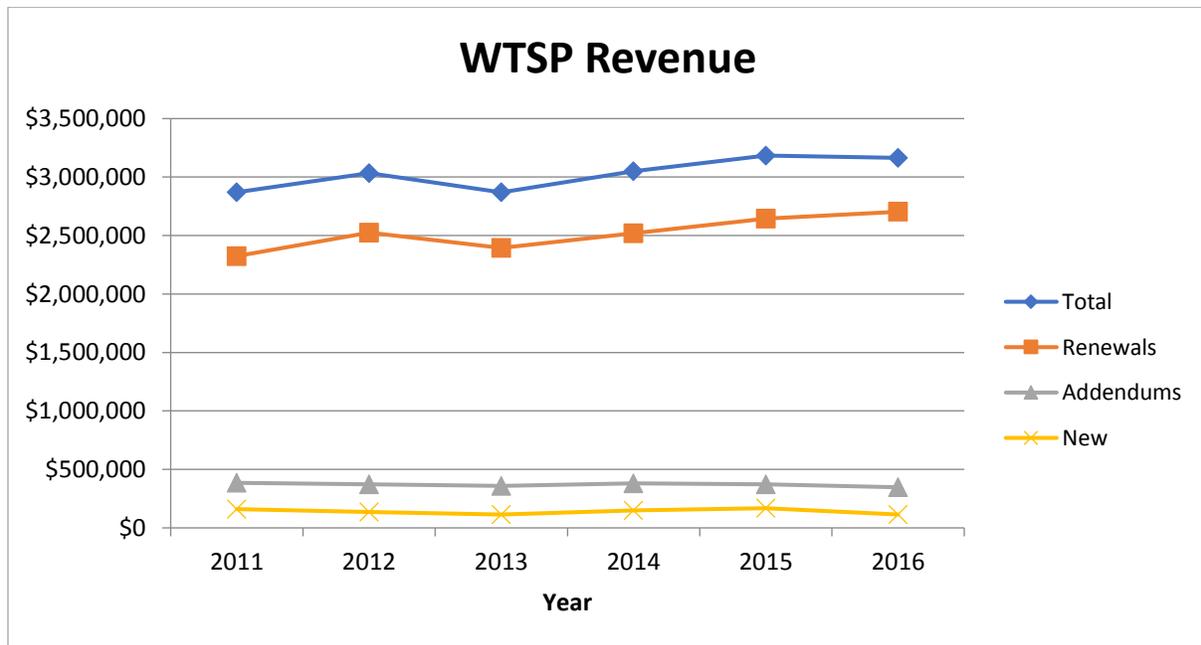
**Waste Transportation Licenses:** The total number of active vehicle licenses in 2015 was 3,191. That number increased by 10.6 percent to 3,530 in 2016.



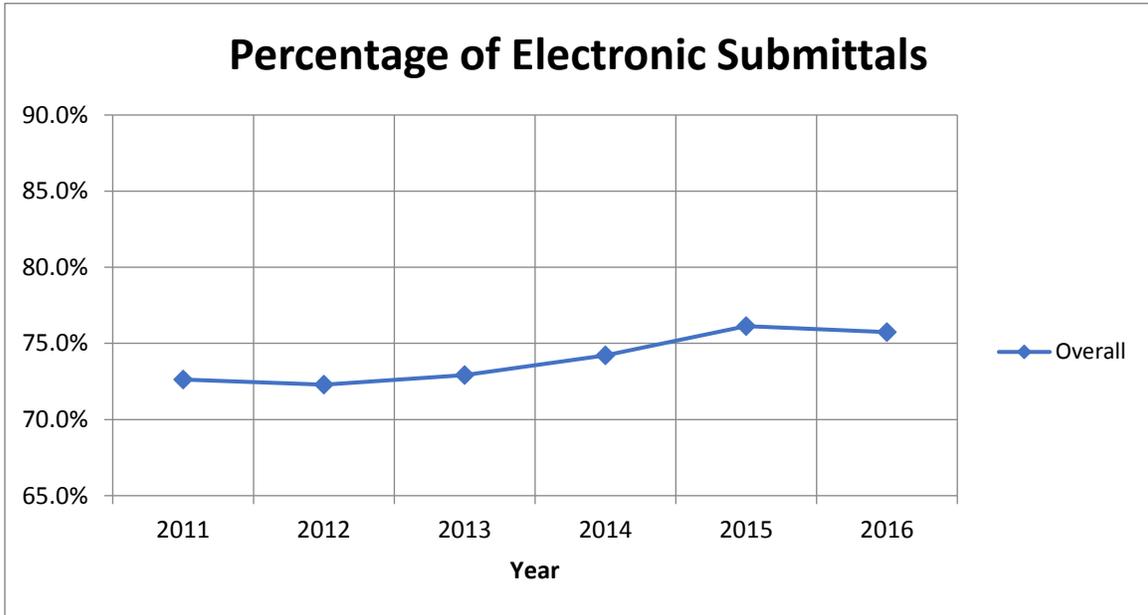
**Waste Transportation Vehicles:** An applicant may apply to license one or more waste transportation vehicles. The following chart provides information on the number and types of vehicles authorized. The total number of authorized vehicles increased 10.3 percent from 29,771 vehicles in 2015 to 32,832 vehicles in 2016.



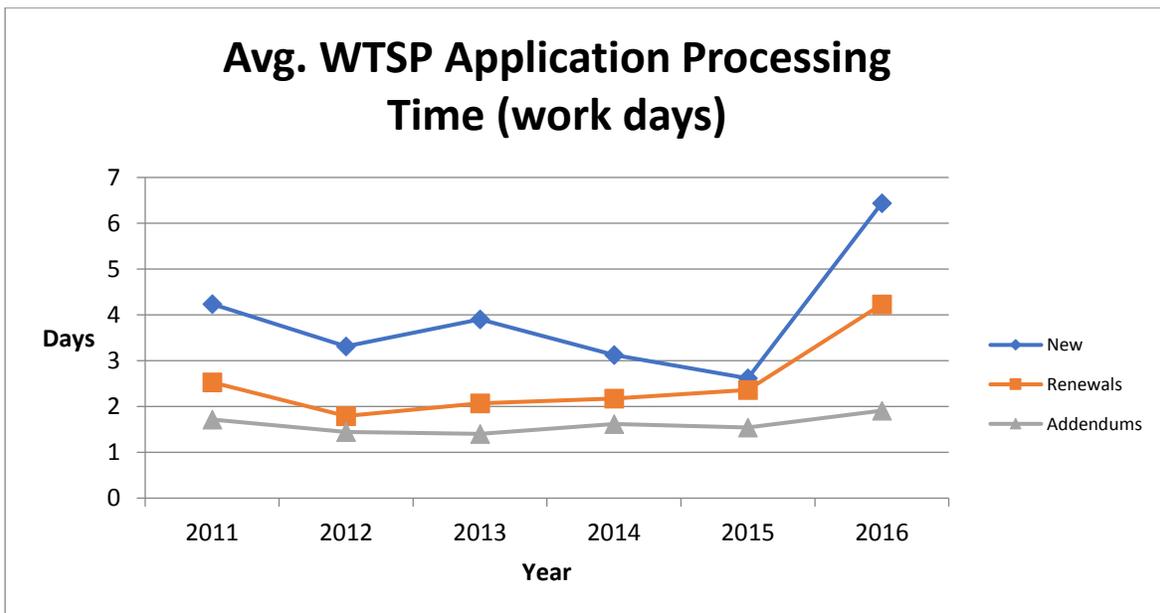
**Revenue:** The total revenue collected for the Waste Transportation Safety Account held steady from \$3.18 million in 2015 to \$3.16 million in 2016.



**Electronic Submissions:** Waste haulers may submit new, renewal and addendum authorization requests through the DEP Greenport (an online application process). The web-based application allows haulers to start, save and submit applications for Act 90 authorizations electronically 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A valid credit card or debit card is necessary to utilize the online system. In 2016, 75.7 percent of the applications were submitted electronically.



**Authorization Processing Time:** While the online system provides convenience for waste haulers and improves DEP’s efficiency by reducing the amount of paper processed manually, as indicated on the following chart, the average processing time for new applications increased from 2.6 work days in 2015 to 6.4 workdays in 2016. This was primarily the result of staff shortages within the WTSP. *Note – Applications processed the same day are counted as one work day.*

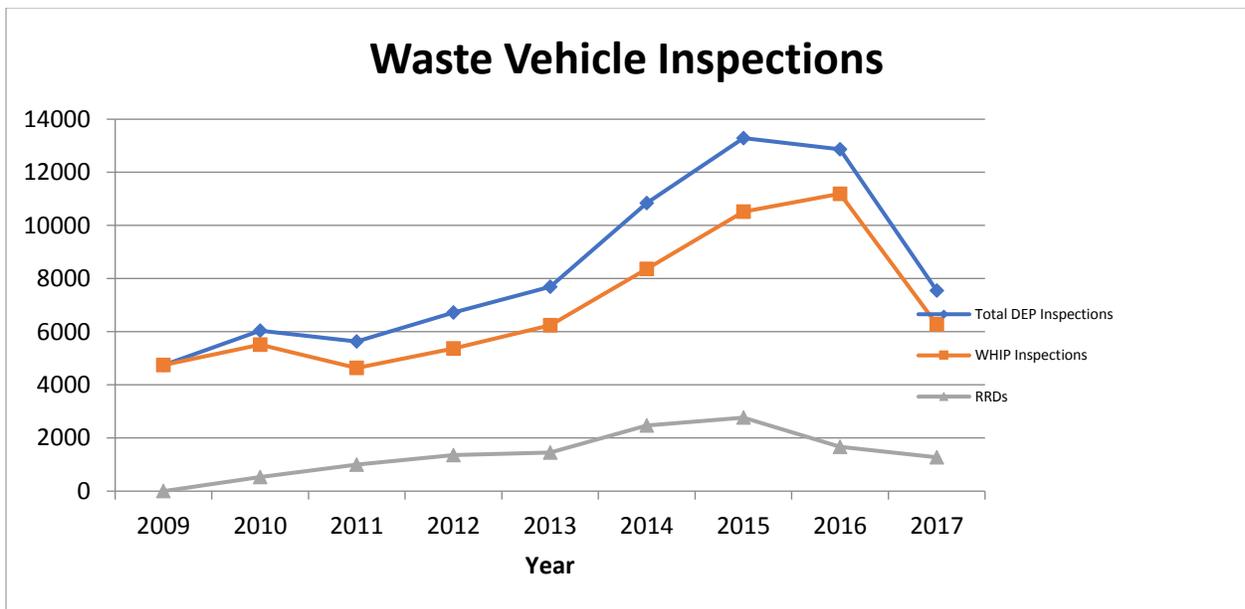


The WTSP strives to achieve the goal of processing all applications within 2 business days. The principal reasons that keep the program from achieving this goal are staffing constraints; incomplete applications; and inability to resolve these issues in a timely manner with the applicant. Common issues that have a negative impact on processing time include incorrect vehicle identification numbers and fee amounts; missing EIN and US DOT Number; and incomplete compliance history and/or open violations.

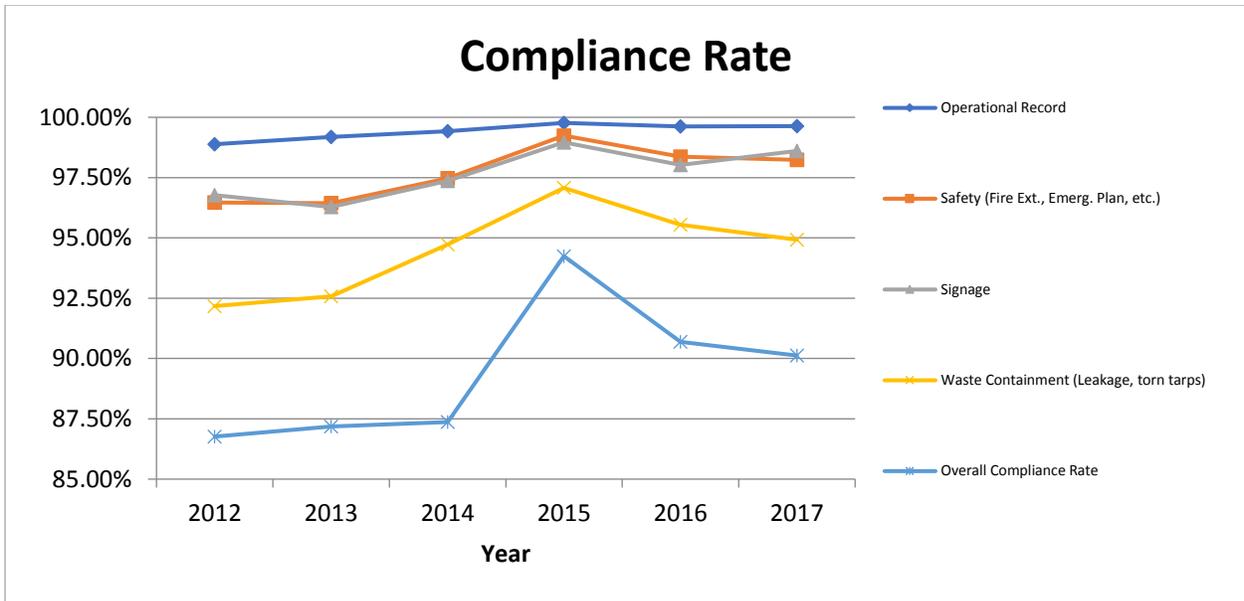
**Waste Transportation Vehicle Compliance**

The Waste Transportation Safety Account also supports the compliance programs carried out by DEP regional office staff and the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). The compliance programs include the Waste Hauler Inspection Program (WHIP); inspections of waste hauling vehicles at municipal waste facilities (routine inspections); and Rural Road Details (RRDs). DEP inspections verify authorization status and compliance with load containment, safety equipment, signage and recordkeeping. PSP inspections are described in more detail below.

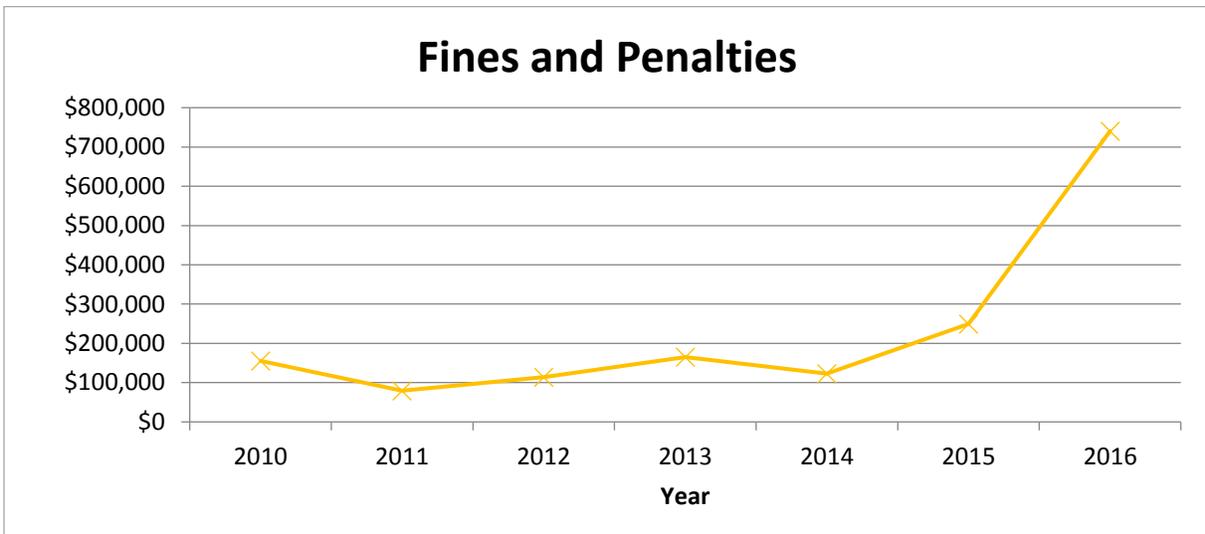
**Vehicle Inspections:** DEP waste transportation vehicle inspections peaked in 2015 and 2016 because statewide WHIPs were resumed in 2015.



**Vehicle Inspection Compliance:** The overall compliance rate for waste transportation vehicles increased to 94 percent in 2015. These results were found during WHIPs, RRDs and routine inspections.



**Fines and Penalties:** Penalties collected from waste haulers by DEP during 2015 totaled \$249,685 and in 2016 they totaled \$740,327. This increase is the result of the increase in inspection activities. Penalties are collected for violations that are found during WHIPs and RRDs. Penalties are deposited into the Solid Waste Abatement Fund and the Waste Transportation Safety Account.



**PSP Inspections:** Since fiscal year 2009-2010, the Waste Transportation Safety Account has been used to provide the PSP with funding through a memorandum of understanding to conduct joint and independent WHIP and RRD inspections. The scope of inspections by the PSP focuses on the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) for commercial motor vehicles. The MCSAP inspections include examination of driver's license, medical examiner's certificate and waiver, alcohol and drugs, driver's record of duty status as required, hours of service, seat belt, vehicle inspection report, brake system, coupling devices, exhaust system, frame, fuel system, turn signals, brake lamps, tail lamps, head lamps, lamps on projecting loads, safe loading,

steering mechanism, suspension, tires, van and open-top trailer bodies, wheels and rims, windshield wipers, and hazardous material requirements, as applicable.

***PSP Results:***

<b>Year</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>PSP MCSAP Inspections</b>	13,920	10,078	11,688	11,173
<b>PSP Citations</b>	4,964	4,245	4,946	4,715
<b>PSP Drivers Out of Service (OOS)</b>	232	224	275	262
<b>PSP Vehicles OOS</b>	1,536	1,458	1,839	1,643

For more information on this report or the waste transportation program, contact the DEP Waste Transportation and Safety Program at 717-783-9258 or visit [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us), Keyword: WTSP.