



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## **DEP Response Action: Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee**

The following practices and procedures have been implemented to facilitate the management of flood and other debris resulting from Tropical Storm Lee and Hurricane Irene:

### **Processing and Disposal Facilities:**

- At the request of a municipal waste processing or disposal facility (landfills, resource recovery facilities and transfer facilities), DEP regional offices may authorize, on a temporary basis, the following to facilitate and expedite the disposal of flood and storm related debris.
  - Extension of operating hours to accept and process flood and storm debris.
  - Increases to the daily volume of waste that may be received, processed or disposed at the facility.
- Facility operators may accept flood and storm debris waste from vehicles that do not have Act 90 authorizations. For vehicles hauling other municipal or residual waste, Act 90 requirements continue to apply.
- Facility operators are not required to pay the Commonwealth tipping fees (\$.25, \$2.00 and \$4.00 per ton) for the processing or disposal of flood and storm related debris. For all other municipal or residual waste that is received, processed or disposed at the facility, tipping fees continue to apply and payment must be made to the Commonwealth in accordance with standard procedures.
- Facility operators may accept flood and storm related debris from counties that have not designated that processing or disposal facility in their County Plan. However, this action does not preclude the county from enforcing its plan. Facility owners and operators are encouraged to coordinate their proposed emergency response action with the host municipality and county.
- Facility operators must maintain records of the amount of flood and storm related debris accepted and shall distinguish the difference between the flood and storm debris from other wastes accepted at the facility. Wastes other than flood and storm related debris shall continue to be reported in the usual manner.

### **Special Handling Waste:**

- Debris received at processing or disposal facilities may contain household hazardous waste or special handling waste, such as propane tanks, heating oil tanks, paint cans, refrigerators and electronic equipment. The condition of these wastes will determine whether proper management would include segregation of these wastes. A facility may conduct segregation of wastes, provided it is being done in a manner that has been approved by DEP. For case-by-case specific guidance on special handling waste, please contact the DEP regional office.

### **Temporary Debris Staging Areas:**

- At the request of a processing or disposal facility or a local government, the DEP regional office may approve temporary flood and storm debris staging areas. These requests should be directed to the appropriate regional office.

### **Leachate Treatment:**

- In areas affected by the recent storm events DEP regional offices may approve alternative leachate storage and treatment management options until normal conditions return.

The Proclamation of Emergency declared on Aug. 26, 2011 is effective for 90 days. These practices and procedures will also be effective during that time. If there are any questions regarding the management of flood and storm debris, municipalities and waste facility operators are encouraged to contact the appropriate DEP regional office.