



THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Governor Jon S. Corzine**

**May 7, 2009**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**Robert Corrales**

**609-777-2600**

**GOVERNOR CORZINE SIGNS BILL REFORMING CLEANUP OF POLLUTED  
SITES**

*Issues Executive Order Establishing Comprehensive Oversight and Transparency*

**TRENTON** - Governor Jon S. Corzine today signed legislation to reform the clean-up of contaminated sites. The Governor also issued an Executive Order to provide strong oversight, accountability and transparency to the new law.

The actions I've taken today reaffirm that we are protecting the environment and the health and safety of New Jerseyans, Governor Corzine said. At the same time, this new law, along with the Executive Order, will cut through the bureaucracy to streamline the clean-up process and allow more than 19,000 contaminated sites to be evaluated more quickly. To be clear, we are cutting the red tape and keeping a watchful eye over those who would choose profit over public safety.

The Executive Order establishes additional oversight and transparency on projects of significance, such as sites that may be redeveloped for housing, schools, playgrounds, child care centers as well as sites where groundwater has been impacted by pollutants above remediation standards. The Executive Order also calls for every report submitted by licensed site remediation professionals to be posted online once such an internet site is established.

New Jersey has the dubious distinction of having more than 20,000 contaminated sites, including Superfund sites, with the lack of cleanup largely due to the state's backlog of remediation projects, said Assemblyman John McKeon (D-Essex). This new law ensures site remediation professionals are properly licensed and that they receive proper oversight to ensure the quick and proper clean-up of toxic sites.

This new law also will boost the state's economy by transforming barren properties into productive sites that will generate new tax revenue and business in communities across the state, said Assemblyman Joseph Cryan (D-Union).

We are better safeguarding New Jersey families by making clean-up guidelines more stringent for sites where a school, child care facility or residential housing will be developed, said Assemblyman Peter Barnes (D-Middlesex).

Licensed professionals will take over many of the more time-consuming functions that have bogged down the DEP, helping to expedite the review and approval process for contaminated sites across the state, said Assemblyman Albert Coutinho (D-Essex). This law will help the state's site remediation program operate more efficiently.

This board will ensure site remediation professionals are qualified to perform the highest level of clean-up at blighted sites across the state, said Assemblywoman Nellie Pou (D-Passaic). We must have better oversight of the clean-up of toxic sites which have long-term and critical impacts for our families, neighborhoods and communities across New Jersey.

This new law represents a huge step forward in revitalizing and remediating contaminated sites and transforming them into viable real estate, said Senator Smith, (D-Middlesex and Somerset). For so long, polluted sites have been allowed to linger because the State simply didn't have the resources in the DEP to cut down on the backlog. Through this law, environmental consultants would be deputized by the DEP to handle non-sensitive site clean-up approval, and we can finally begin to reclaim some of these sites for the people of the Garden State.