

Important New Jersey Remediation Deadlines Are Approaching: Are You Ready?

by John M. Scagnelli on March 27, 2012

The Site Remediation Reform Act (SRRA) made sweeping changes to the way contaminated sites are remediated in New Jersey. Among those changes, SRRA establishes a program for the licensing of Licensed Site Remediation Professionals (LSRPs) who will now oversee environmental investigation and cleanup in New Jersey.

Several of the deadlines associated with the SRRA's new requirements have recently passed or are quickly approaching. Therefore, if you are in any way responsible for the cleanup of a contaminated site, now is the time to act.

The deadlines for filing Receptor Evaluations was March 1, 2012, and the deadline for retaining a Licensed Site Remediation Professional is May 7, 2012. These are the first of the "mandatory" remediation time frames mandated by the SRRA.

Effective May 7, 2012, New Jersey State law requires that a LSRP be hired to conduct all environmental remediation work in the State of New Jersey, for both new and existing cases. This means that private parties conducting environmental remediation in the State will no longer be able to conduct environmental remediation under the direct oversight of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) staff, except in limited circumstances.

NJDEP has advised that there are in excess of 7,500 existing remediation cases for which an LSRP will need to be hired by May 7, 2012. The Department has also indicated that it intends to pursue enforcement actions against parties responsible for conducting remediation that do not meet their obligations under the new requirements. This means you could be subject to fines and other penalties if you fail to hire an LSRP by May 7, 2012.

For more information about the May 7 deadlines and other important regulatory changes impacting remediation in New Jersey, we invite you to check out Scarinci Hollenbeck's YouTube video titled, "New May 7th Law for New Jersey Licensed Site Remediation Professionals." This video features Scarinci and Hollenbeck, Partner and chair of the Environmental and Land Use Law Group, John Scagnelli.