

PEF/encon: Protecting the Public's Health & NYS's Environment for Over 30 Years at the
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Public Employees Federation - Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services Unit



Please Help PEF/encon Prevent the Permanent Downsizing of DEC's Ability to Prevent Pollution and Protect Your Environment and Your Family's Health and Well-Being

Over the past ten years, a series of layoffs and retirements has reduced DEC staff by almost 1,000 people. This represents a 25% reduction in DEC's staff resources. Below are a few examples of how this is affecting you, your family and friends:

Lack of support and staff at DEC public service facilities:

- DEC's campgrounds are so under-funded and under-staffed that they are literally kept running with bubble gum and duct tape. Family camping and other recreational activities are jeopardized due to this.
- DEC's Fish and Wildlife staff are often scrambling to raise and sufficiently stock NYS lakes and streams due to inadequate staffing and equipment. Scarce resources are putting your enjoyment of fishing at risk.
- DEC's Saratoga Tree Nursery and Reynolds Game Farm are repeatedly threatened with closure during budget negotiations, in spite of the fact that they provide proven public benefits (healthy tree stock and pheasant hunting opportunities) for a nominal cost to the State.

Contracting out the Part 373 Hazardous Waste Facility Permits:

- Recently, DEC replaced its own staff with outside contractors to write the permit conditions for two hazardous waste facilities. Among these major facilities no longer under DEC's direct review is Momentive Performance Materials in Waterford (former GE Silicones). This is more costly; it jeopardizes the safety of not only the local community and environment but the plant employees as well!
- Unlike the experienced DEC staff whose responsibility is solely to protect your public health and welfare, private consultants will tolerate the absolute minimum, so as to lower costs and maximize profits of the permittee in the hopes of getting future contractual work from that industry.

Please call and write your:

State Senator - <http://www.nysenate.gov/senators>

Assemblyman - <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/?sh=email>

Commissioner Martens - <http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/407.html>

or (518) 402-8545

PEF/encon appreciates your community support!