

2. Limits are also based on the quality of the receiving stream. A permittee cannot discharge pollutants that will reduce the quality of the receiving water. New Jersey is in the process of evaluating all the streams and waterways and determining the degree of sensitivity of each of these waterways and permits written in response to these findings.

3. **New Jersey Clean Water Enforcement Act:** This recently passed legislation is one of the strongest environmental laws in the United States. It requires publicly owned treatment works (POTW'S) and DEPE to monitor the discharges of industrial users known as **indirect dischargers**. It requires the POTW's and DEPE to inspect the plant facility at least once a year and to receive monthly discharge reports from each facility discharging into a treatment plant. If a permittee consistently exceeds their permit limits it will be discovered within a six month period and the permittee will pay fines of up to \$50,000 a day and be brought before the courts for criminal action if they do not correct the problem. The court can require a municipal plant to upgrade its treatment process in order to avoid the pollutant discharge that is causing the fines and treatment facilities may refuse to add additional connections into their system until there is expanded capacity into the plant. This refusal to accept new connections is called a **sewer ban**. The purpose of this portion of the law is to be sure that growth and development are in tune with the abilities of the wastewater treatment facility.

4. **Training of Personnel at Wastewater Treatment Plants:** Various licenses are required by the individuals who operate the machinery at these multimillion dollar treatment plants in New Jersey. The wastewater treatment plants have laboratory facilities which take samples to monitor the progress of the wastewater treatment as it goes through the various processes. The laboratory people also must meet specific certification requirements for their education and their abilities. The laboratory itself must have certain equipment which is calibrated and tested for its accuracy and the individuals who work in the laboratory must meet educational criteria. POTW's also hire consulting engineering firms who are individuals with vast experience who design the plants and help to maintain them in the best possible working order. Equipment such as pumps and various other instruments which tend to wear are automatically removed and the parts are replaced before this piece of equipment malfunctions. This is called good maintenance and operation of the facility.

5. **Bond Holders:** Most municipal wastewater treatment plants are funded by bond holders. These are citizens who buy tax free bonds for the purpose of building wastewater treatment facilities. In the bond covenants there are requirements that the plant be maintained well and that it be in compliance with the rules and regulations established by the Department of Environmental Protection and Energy. This is another check to ensure that the plant is running well. The bond holder will not be advised to continue to invest in facilities which are not running well. Therefore, the bond holder is the key to helping this process run smoothly.

