



The Passaic River/Newark Bay Study Area natural resource trustees (Trustees), acting on behalf of the public, are responsible for assessing injuries to natural resources caused by the release of hazardous substances, restoring those resources, and compensating the public for their lost use. The process of assessing injuries and restoring resources is called a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA). The Trustees include the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. To determine whether to proceed with a full NRDA, a Preliminary Assessment Screen (PAS) is necessary. The PAS provides a review of readily available information on the release of hazardous substances and their potential impacts on the public's natural resources. This review documents that hazardous substance releases have occurred, have adversely affected natural resources, and that there is a reasonable probability of making a successful claim against parties responsible for the injuries. The PAS also documents whether further investigation and assessment efforts are warranted.

The PAS documents the release of a variety of hazardous substances to the tidal Passaic River and Greater Newark Bay Complex, including dioxins, furans, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), heavy metals, and pesticides. The release and impacts of one particular hazardous substance, 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD), from the Diamond Alkali Plant are particularly well-documented and, as such, are the focus of this PAS. However, it is clear that there are other sources and contaminants of concern in the Passaic River and Complex. The Trustees presently intend to address these other hazardous substances, and their sources and impacts during the assessment phase through future investigations. The Trustees will be working closely with EPA and coordinating with its response activities in the Passaic region. Information on EPA's response activities can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/pass_ou2.htm

The Trustees welcome the public's input on their efforts to assess and restore the Passaic River and Newark Bay Study Area (or Greater Newark Bay Complex) and will make the public aware of any future NRDA activities. For further information on the trustees' activities in the Passaic region, visit

<http://www.darp.noaa.gov/northeast/passaic/index.html> or contact any of the following:

[Eli Reinharz](#)

NOAA/Damage Assessment Center
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301.713.3038 x193

Eli Reinharz

NOAA/Damage Assessment Center
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301.713.3038 x193
Fax: 301.713.4387
Eli.Reinharz@noaa.gov

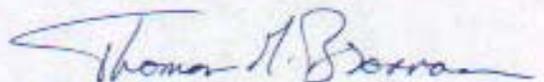
Tim Kubiak

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
927 North Main Street, Building D
Pleasantville, NJ 08232
609.646.9310 x26
Fax: 609.646.0352
tim_kubiak@fws.gov

John Sacco

State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
501 East State Street, Station Plaza 5
Trenton, NJ 08625
609.292.2938
Fax: 609.984.0836
John.Sacco@dep.state.nj.us

On behalf of the Trustees:



Thomas Brosnan,
Atlantic Branch Manager
Office of Response and Restoration
NOAA