



# THE ADMINISTRATIVE WATCH

ADMINISTRATIVE WATCH ADDRESSES ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

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## **PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FINES INFECTIOUS WASTE GENERATORS FOR MANIFEST VIOLATIONS**

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (the “Department”) recently fined five infectious waste generators for failing to properly complete infectious waste manifests. Specifically, after an investigation, the Department determined that between 2001 and 2003, the five facilities failed to have a responsible party sign infectious waste manifests as required under the Solid Waste Management Act on at least thirty-seven separate occasions. While the total amount of the fines (\$5,500) may seem insignificant, in commenting on the seriousness of these violations, the Department’s Northeast Regional Director suggested that more enforcement action may come against infectious waste generators who fail to properly complete infectious waste manifests. According to the Director, the Department is “very concerned about the nature and extent of these violations and wants to ensure that they do not happen again in the future.”

Significantly, the citations issued by the Department to the infectious waste generators reinforce the vulnerability of medical facilities to environmental enforcement initiatives. As we noted in an Administrative Watch in August of 2004, the United States Environmental Protection Agency Regions I and II (New England, New York and New Jersey) recently began targeting medical facilities as a major priority for multi-media inspection and enforcement efforts. The fines suggest that the Department is also closely monitoring the environmental compliance of medical facilities within the state. If you have any questions regarding the recent initiatives against medical facilities or need assistance in responding to an inquiry from the Environmental Protection Agency or the Department, please do not hesitate to contact Brandon D. Coneby at 412-394-6965 or any of the other attorneys in the Environmental, Health and Safety Services Group.

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