

Notification of Release Policy

In 2001, The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control rolled out the Delaware Environmental Release Notification System, (DERNS). The system exists to communicate environmental releases to the citizens of the state via, electronic mail, facsimile, or telephone call. The DNREC would has achieved great results with the system, and continually evaluates the notification process to make improvements. The purpose of this letter is to announce one such improvement. On October 10th 2004, the department adopted the following policy that specifically identifies releases that will be posted on the DERN system and time lines for Department staff to perform the function.

Policy

1. The Department will, as soon as practical, but within one business day of its occurrence, notify the citizens who have subscribed to the Delaware Environmental Release Notification System, of any release exceeding the threshold levels for the material, (Delaware Reportable Quantities) or any release involving an extremely hazardous substance. The notification will occur by e-mail, phone, or fax as designated by the subscriber. Releases below the reportable quantity will be posted on the Department web page only.
2. The Department will, within one business day of its occurrence, post information on the agency web site and notify citizens who have subscribed to the Delaware Environmental Release Notification System, of any release, irrespective of reportable quantity or hazard classification, that are:
 - a) continuous and anticipated to exceed 12 hours in duration; or
 - b) audible, or
 - c) visible, or
 - d) odiferous in nature, or
 - e) are deemed, by DNREC staff or the party reporting the release, to involve off-site contamination.
- 3) In addition, any self-reported release reported to the Department as an “unknown quantity” will be posted on the agency web site and broadcasted to subscribers of the Delaware Environmental Release Notification System by the Department within one business day of its occurrence.

The DNREC is confident that the new guidance will improve upon the current system and provide timely and accurate release information to the citizens of Delaware.

Please contact Kurt Reuther, Chief of Enforcement at 302-739-5071 with any questions.