In addition to referring criminal matters, the DEP provides the EPS with investigative and technical support. For example, the Department’s Bureau of Investigations helps with performing needed sampling of wastes or discharges. The Department’s laboratory services analyze those samples. DEP also supplies the EPS with contractors to provide specialized equipment needed to conduct searches, etc.

The EPS’s agents and lawyers employ all of the normal investigative techniques in building their cases, including:

- Witness interviews
- Surveillance
- Electronic interceptions
- Search warrants
- Consent searches
- Document reviews and
- The use of statewide investigating grand juries

Agents are members of the Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Program. They have extensive technical training in a variety of areas including asbestos inspection, OSHA requirements and sampling.

Under Section 204(c) of the Commonwealth Attorneys Act, the OAG has jurisdiction over environmental civil claims.

Historically, many of these matters have been delegated to the DEP. The OAG is committed to partnering with the DEP and other state agencies in enforcing Pennsylvania’s environmental laws and upholding Article I, Section 27 of the Commonwealth’s Constitution.

The OAG is committed to protecting the health and safety of all Pennsylvanians by taking prompt action to prevent their exposure to toxic substances. The OAG also will work aggressively to seek compensation from those parties who are responsible for harming Pennsylvania’s natural resources.

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For more information on the Environmental Protection Section, visit our website:
www.attorneygeneral.gov

Josh Shapiro
Pennsylvania Attorney General
Since 1980 when it was first formed, the Environmental Protection Section (EPS) has prosecuted numerous cases throughout Pennsylvania for violations of:

- The Solid Waste Management Act
- The Clean Streams Law
- The Air Pollution Control Act
- The Fish and Boat Code
- The Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act
- The Infectious and Chemotherapeutic Waste Disposal Act
- The Oil and Gas Act and
- The Radiation Protection Act

Those cases have involved illegal acts ranging from the midnight dumping of chemicals to the intentional polluting of our air and water resources.

The EPS also has brought charges for violations of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code including the dumping of wastes associated with the illegal production of controlled substances.

Environmental protection is one of my top priorities.

It’s also a constitutional right in our Commonwealth; that’s why our Constitution gives all of us the right to clean air, pure water, and the preservation of our natural resources. I am committed to protecting those rights through the prosecution of criminal actions and the pursuit of civil cases.

I pledge to ensure that generations to come have access to the same resources we have today.

Josh Shapiro
Attorney General

Under Section 205 of the Commonwealth Attorneys Act, the Office of Attorney General (OAG) has jurisdiction over criminal environmental matters only upon referral from County District Attorneys, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP or the Department), the Fish and Boat Commission, and other relevant state agencies.