

SECTION XIII

AIR QUALITY POLICIES #41-43

A. INTRODUCTION

This section addresses air quality issues.

B. AIR QUALITY POLICIES

POLICY 41 LAND USE OR DEVELOPMENT IN THE COASTAL AREA WILL NOT CAUSE NATIONAL OR STATE AIR QUALITY STANDARDS TO BE VIOLATED.

Explanation of policy:

New York's Coastal Management Program incorporates the air quality policies and programs developed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) pursuant to the Federal Clean Air Act and New York State laws on air quality. The requirements of the Clean Air Act are the minimum air quality control requirements applicable within the waterfront area. Program decisions with regard to specific sites for major new or expanded energy, transportation, or commercial facilities will reflect an assessment of their compliance with the air quality requirements of the State Implementation Plan.

The types of land use and development permitted by local law in the coastal zone of East Hampton will not violate federal or state air quality policies and programs. As East Hampton Town at present does not contain any primary point sources of air pollution such as heavy industrial or power generation plants, development in the Town does not pose a threat to air quality.

The principal air pollution source within the Town is automobile traffic, particularly the significant congestion that occurs on summer weekends on Montauk Highway, the Town's principal artery. As automobile pollutants are regulated by the federal and state governments through equipment standards and state inspection programs, the remedies are largely beyond the control of the Town. Impacts of automobile pollution on local air quality, other than subjective impressions of smog and odor, are unknown and to date have not been quantified. Air pollution studies by NYS DOT are recommended when projects are proposed on the state system in the Town of East Hampton. These studies should acquire data on quantities and types of pollutants, locate problem areas and identify ways to reduce congestion at traffic choke points.

Innovative strategies for reducing traffic congestion, establishing more efficient traffic patterns, or providing for new means of local transportation are also within the purview of the Town, and may help to reduce automobile pollution. A number of such solutions have been explored and recommendations submitted in the Transportation Element for the Town Comprehensive Plan completed in 1997.

POLICY 41A THE TOWN SHALL BE INCLUDED IN RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING AND NOTIFICATION FOR THE MILLSTONE NUCLEAR ENERGY PLANTS OPERATED BY NORTHEAST UTILITIES IN WATERFORD, CT AND THE NUCLEAR REACTORS OPERATED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AT BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY.

Explanation of policy:

Most of the Town's northerly coastal area lies within a 20-mile radius of the three units of the Millstone Nuclear Power Plant, operated by Northeast Utilities in Waterford, CT, directly across Long Island Sound. These plants have experienced a significant number of operational problems, some of which have led to releases of airborne radioactive materials, and all three units have been closed down in the past because of Nuclear Regulatory Commission safety concerns. Depending on wind and weather patterns the Town could be seriously affected by radioactive airborne emissions from the Millstone plants.

The Town also lies in the prevailing downwind shadow of the experimental nuclear reactors operated by the U.S. Department of Energy at Brookhaven National Laboratory approximately 30 miles to the west.

As ionizing radiation from byproducts of nuclear fission poses a significant health hazard, the Town should be advised immediately of any abnormal release of airborne fission byproducts, and should be included in federally mandated emergency response plans for these reactors, including notification procedures, monitoring, containment, and evacuation from affected areas.

The Town also proposes to set up an independent radiological monitoring station as a project of the LWRP (see **Projects**).

POLICY 42 COASTAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES WILL BE CONSIDERED IF THE STATE RECLASSIFIES LAND AREAS PURSUANT TO THE PREVENTION OF SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION REGULATIONS OF THE FEDERAL CLEAN AIR ACT.

Explanation of policy:

The policies of this program concerning proposed land and water uses and the protection and preservation of coastal resources will be taken into account prior to any action to change Prevention of Significant Deterioration land classification under Federal Clean Air Act regulations in the Town's coastal zone or adjacent areas.

POLICY 43 LAND USE OR DEVELOPMENT IN THE COASTAL AREA MUST NOT CAUSE THE GENERATION OF SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF THE ACID RAIN PRECURSORS: NITRATES AND SULFATES.

Explanation of policy:

The New York State Coastal Management Program incorporates the State's policies on acid rain. As such, this program assists in the State's efforts to control acid rain. These efforts to control acid rain will enhance the continued viability of coastal fisheries, wildlife, scenic and water resources.

There are no significant generators of acid rain precursors in the Town. As noted above the only significant generation of air pollutants within the Town occurs from automobile traffic.