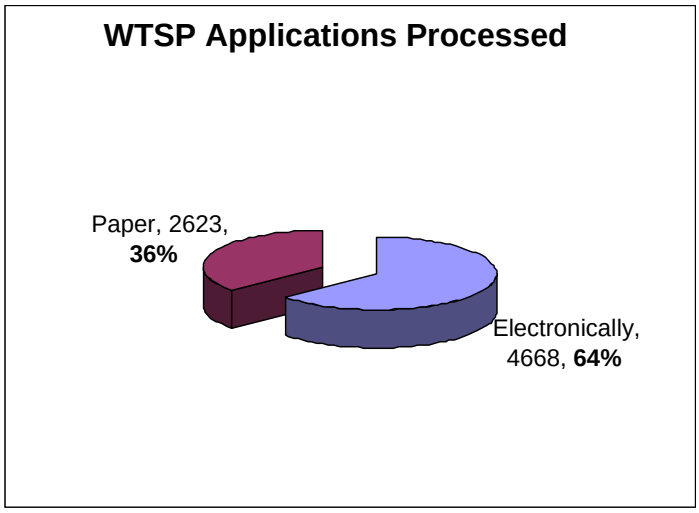
2008 WASTE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROGRAM (WTSP) ANNUAL REPORT

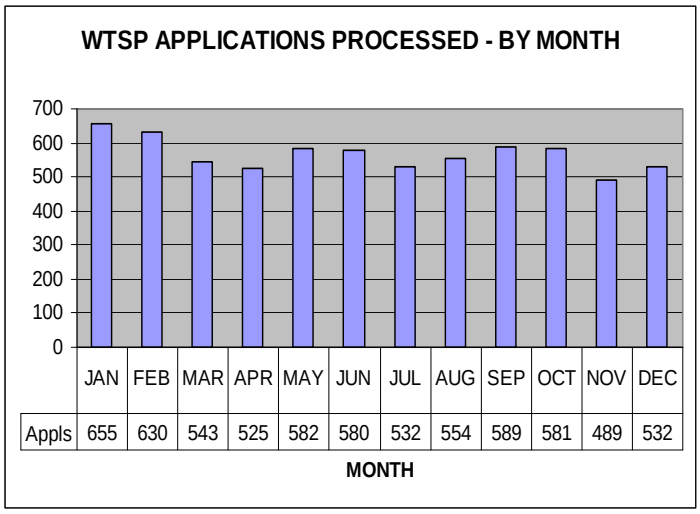
The Waste Transportation Safety Act (Act 90), signed into law on June 29, 2002, requires vehicles transporting municipal or residual waste to waste processing or disposal facilities in Pennsylvania to have a valid Waste Transporter Authorization issued by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The law applies to trucks and truck tractors with a registered gross vehicle weight greater than 17,000 lbs., and trailers with a registered gross vehicle weight greater than 10,000 lbs. Processing and disposal facilities may not accept waste from waste transportation vehicles that do not have a valid authorization. Authorizations are issued by DEP's Waste Transportation and Safety Program (WTSP).

Under a modern Web-based application process implemented in late 2007, waste haulers may submit new, renewal and addendum authorization requests through the DEP Greenport. The Web-based application allows haulers to start, save and submit applications for Act 90 authorizations electronically 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A valid credit card or debit card is necessary to utilize the Web-based system. Although paper applications may still be mailed to the Department with a check for processing, Internet submissions provide a much more efficient and timely process for both the applicant and the Department.

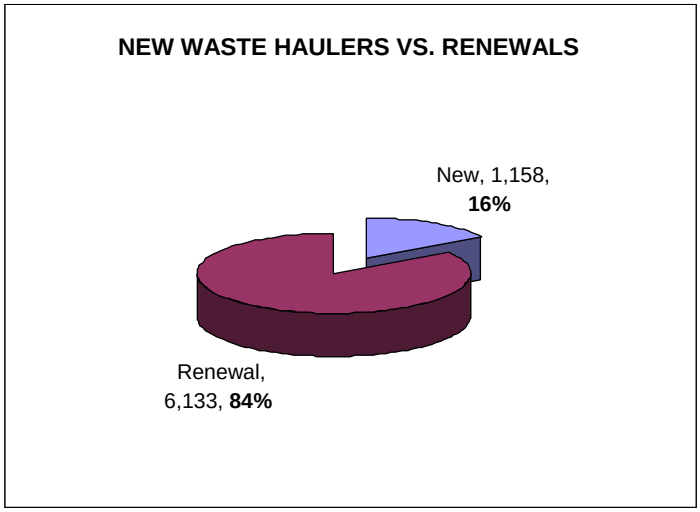
The first full year of processing Act 90 waste hauler authorizations and renewals concluded at the end of December 2008. A total of 7,291 applications were processed. Sixty-four percent were submitted electronically through the DEP Greenport. This paperless system provides convenience for waste haulers and improves the efficiency of DEP by reducing the amount of paper processed manually.



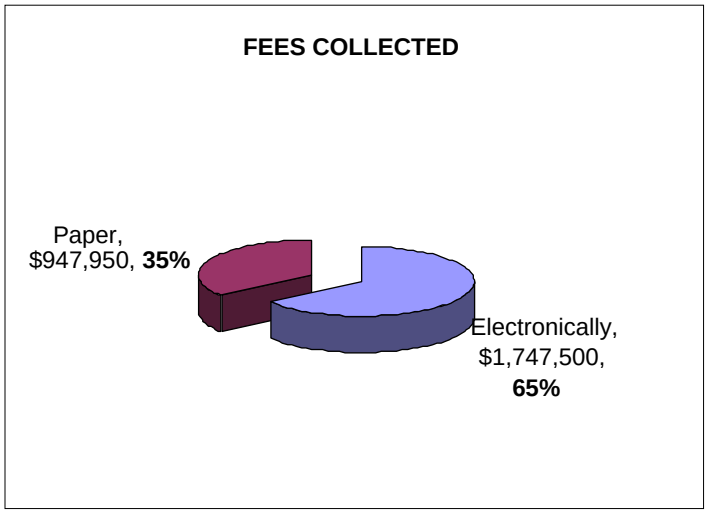
The renewal process for Act 90 was designed to even out staff workload over 12 months with the number of applications processed per month ranging from 489 to 655.



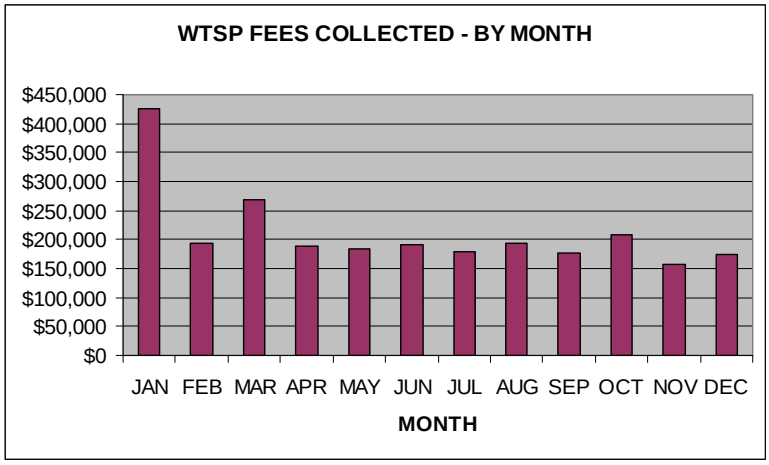
A total of 1,158 new waste transportation companies registered vehicles under Act 90 in 2008. This is 16% of the total applications processed. An applicant may license one or more vehicles.



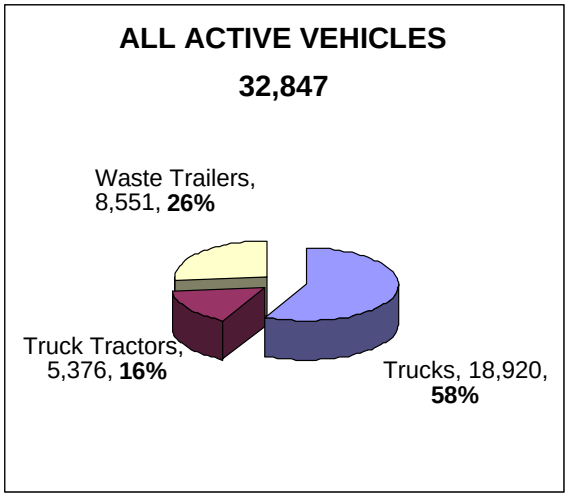
The total revenue collected for the Waste Transportation Safety Account was $2,695,450. Sixty-five percent of the fees were collected electronically with the Web application. This fund is expected to remain fairly consistent as annual renewals will continue to be processed in the future. The fund will be used to support staff positions at DEP related to waste transportation activities.

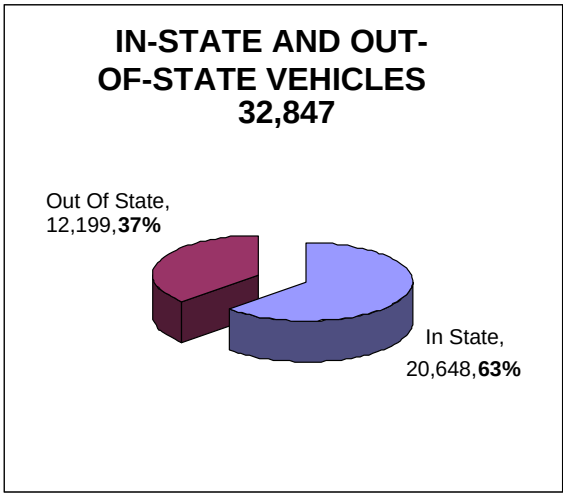


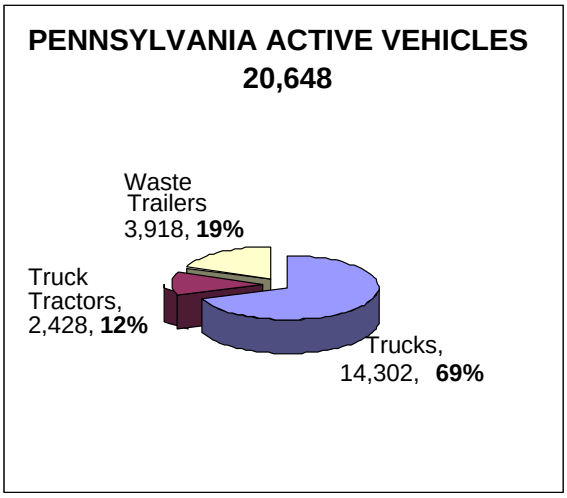
The first complete year of renewals ended in December 2008. Monthly revenues ranged from $424,800 in January to a low of $154,150 in November 2008. Renewal dates for haulers with the largest fleets were set for first quarter 2008 in order to generate the largest revenues earlier in the renewal process. The average monthly Act 90 fees collected for the 12-month period were $211,775.

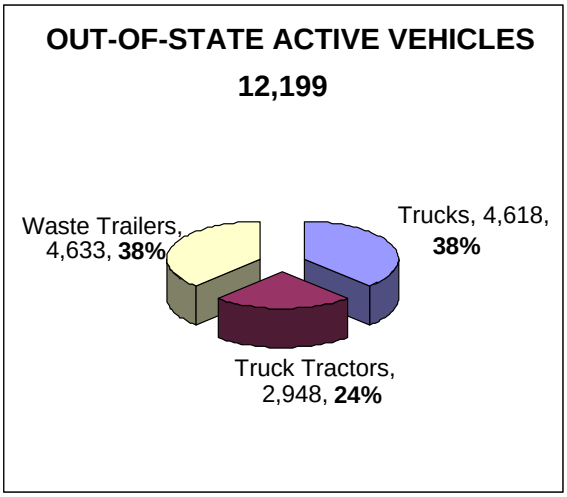


The following charts provide a description of the types and origins of the waste hauler authorizations processed in 2008.



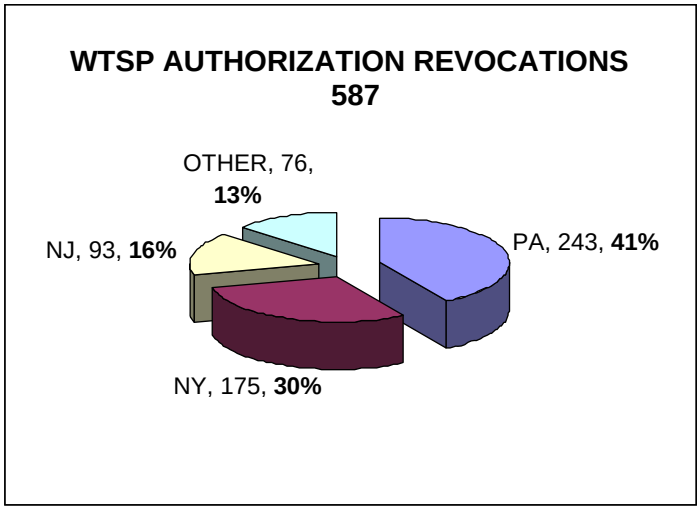




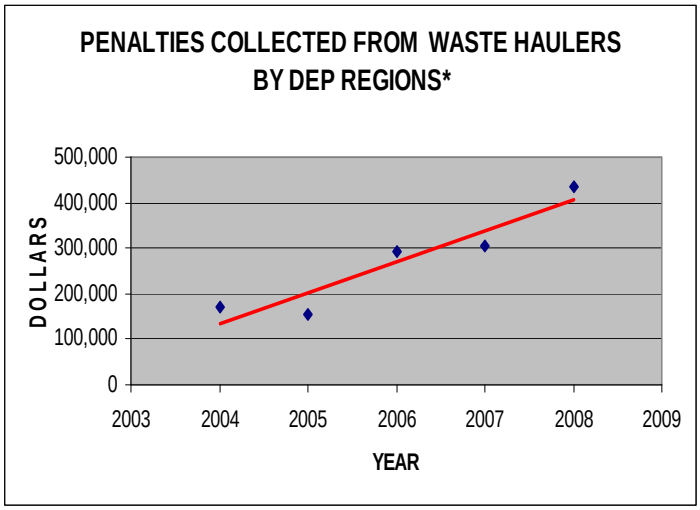


Waste Transporter Authorization applicants are required to report any environmental enforcement actions issued against them by any Pennsylvania Agency or Federal Agency within the past five (5) years when submitting a new or renewal application. Enforcement actions issued by PADEP are tracked in the Department's eFACTS database.

In 2008, the WTSP revoked 587 waste hauler authorizations for violations of the requirements of Act 90. Of these revocations, 243 were PA haulers, 175 were NY haulers, 93 were NJ haulers, and 76 were out of other states. Many of these waste haulers may have moved or are no longer in business, or failed to comply with Act 90. To date, 1,429 waste hauler authorizations have been revoked by the WTSP since 2004.

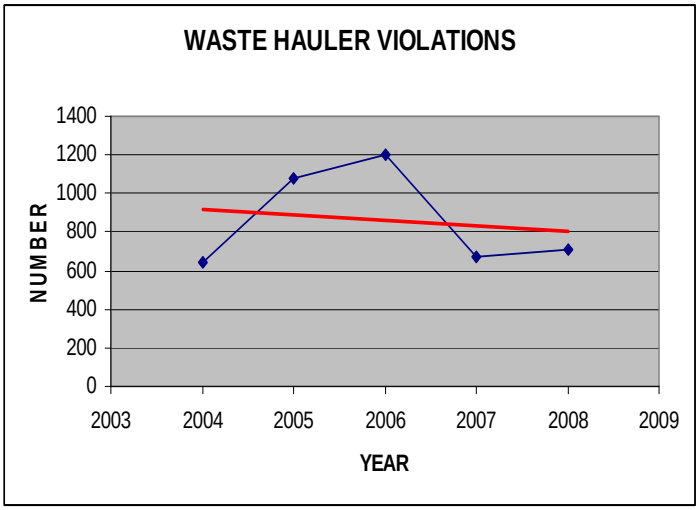


Penalties collected from waste haulers by DEP during 2008 totaled $435,572. Of that amount, $261,764 collected in 2008 was from 3 major enforcement cases. Over the 5-year period beginning in 2004, there has been a significant upward trend in penalty dollars collected. Penalties are deposited in the Solid Waste Abatement Fund and the Waste Transportation and Safety Program Fund.



*Includes penalties collected from municipal, residual, hazardous, medical, and tire haulers.

Waste haulers had 707 violations in 2008. This is a slight increase from the 672 violations recorded in 2007. Over the 5-year period starting in 2004, the violation trend has been slightly downward.



For more information contact The Waste Transportation and Safety Program at 717-783-9258.

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION