

## **2. Medical Waste Tracking Act Demonstration Program**

*What is the status of the Medical Waste Tracking Act demonstration program, laid out in 40 CFR Part 259?*

In response to the Medical Waste Tracking Act of 1988 (which amended RCRA by adding Subtitle J), EPA established a two year demonstration program to track medical waste. The program began June 22, 1989, and ended June 22, 1991. Five States participated in the program: Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and Rhode Island. The program has expired and only some of the Federal recordkeeping regulations are currently in effect.

Section 11008 of RCRA required EPA to submit to Congress two interim reports and a final report on medical waste management and the demonstration program. The first and second interim reports were submitted in May 1990 and December 1990. The first interim report summarized information that was then available from the tracking program and outlined an agenda for additional research on each of the 12 specific areas concerning medical waste that were identified in the Act. The second interim report provided a research update and forecast on each of these subject areas. The third and final report will summarize all the information gathered, evaluate the success of the demonstration program, and outline options for managing medical waste. The final report is currently under Agency review and completion is expected late in 1992. After EPA submits the final report, Congress will review the results of the two-year program and determine the most appropriate course of action for medical waste management.