





Quantitative Environmental Indicators of Contamination (QEIC)

FY99 EMPACT Project Proposal

EPA OSW / Region 2 / NJDEP

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Quantitative Environmental Indicators of Contamination (QEIC)

A system for tracking environmental results.

☞ DEFINITION:

☞ QEIC are scientific measurements of change in the quality of the environment expressed as the aerial extent and mass load of chemical contamination.

Need for the QEIC approach.

☞ 1

☞ 2

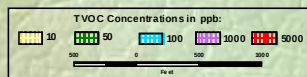
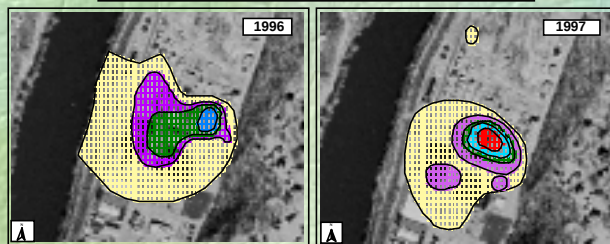
☞ 3

☞ 4

☞ **Allows for a more objective, less confrontational assessment of environmental quality progress than dollars spent and bean-counting.**

FY98-99 New Jersey EMPACT Project

**JT Baker Groundwater Contamination:
Total Volatile Organics**



**Essex Chemical Site
Contamination Exception Areas**



**Rollins Environmental Services
Soil Contamination Areas**



Objectives for FY98/99

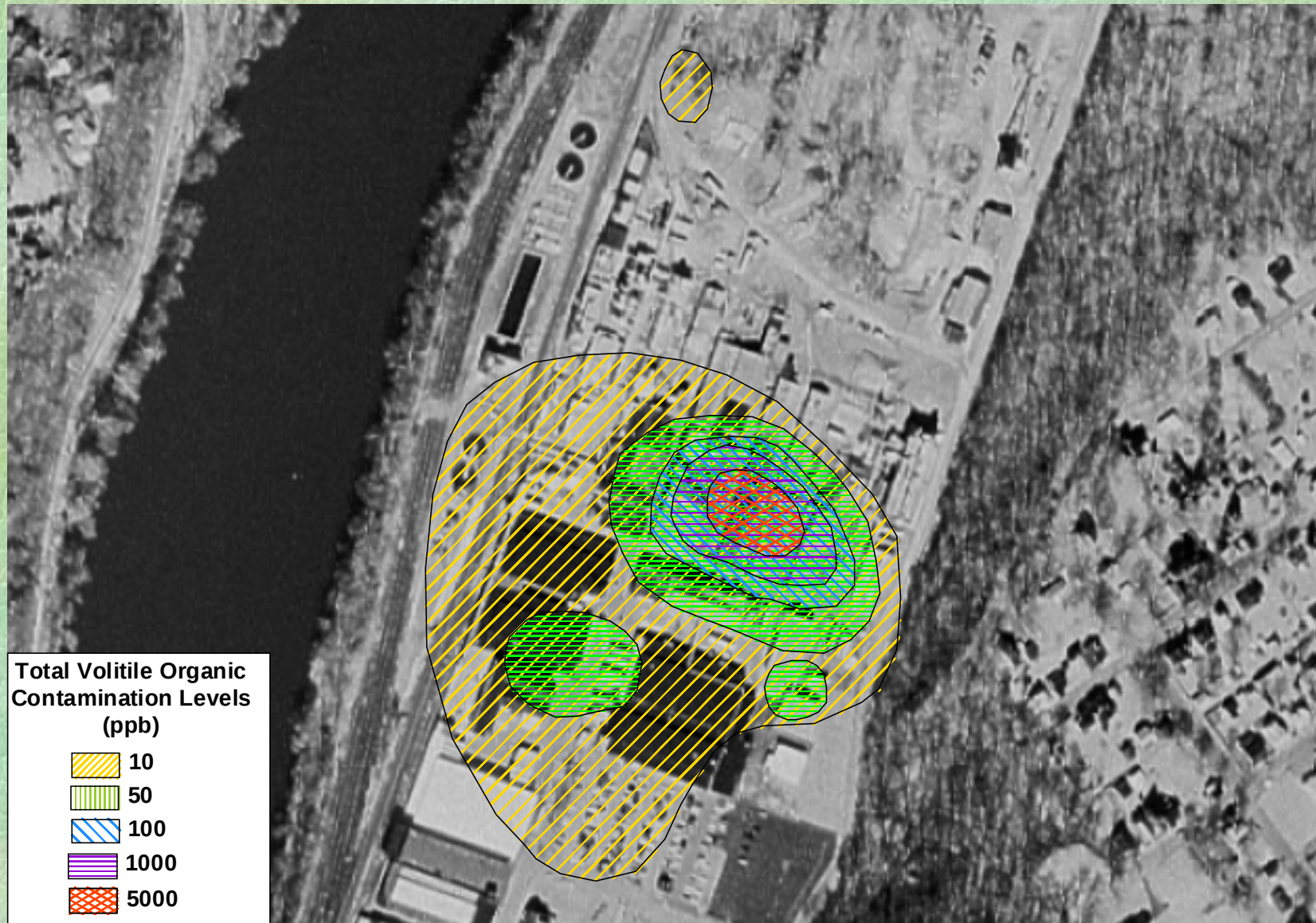
- Finish QEIC calculations for all 20 pilot sites in NJ.
- Complete computation of QEIC for a total of 100 contaminated sites in NJ.
- Complete QEIC computation Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for both hard copy and electronic data.
- Present QEIC results to the public attending contaminated site cleanup meeting in March 1999 (including a QEIC map in a newspaper notice).
- Establish an interactive web site for presenting QEIC information to the public.
- Present QEIC methodology and results at the International Environmental Technology Expo '99. (April 20-21, 1999 in Atlantic City, NJ)
- Train EPA staff in Regions 2 (New York and Puerto Rico) and 3 (Pennsylvania) and complete QEIC at 10 sites in each state, 2 in Puerto Rico.



Mercury Contamination Emanating from Industrial Site



Ground Water Contamination at a New Jersey Industrial Site



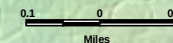
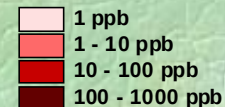
QEIC CALCULATIONS



Area of Groundwater Contamination

The area of the contaminated groundwater plume that contains contaminants above applicable groundwater standards.

Benzene - Water Table Plume

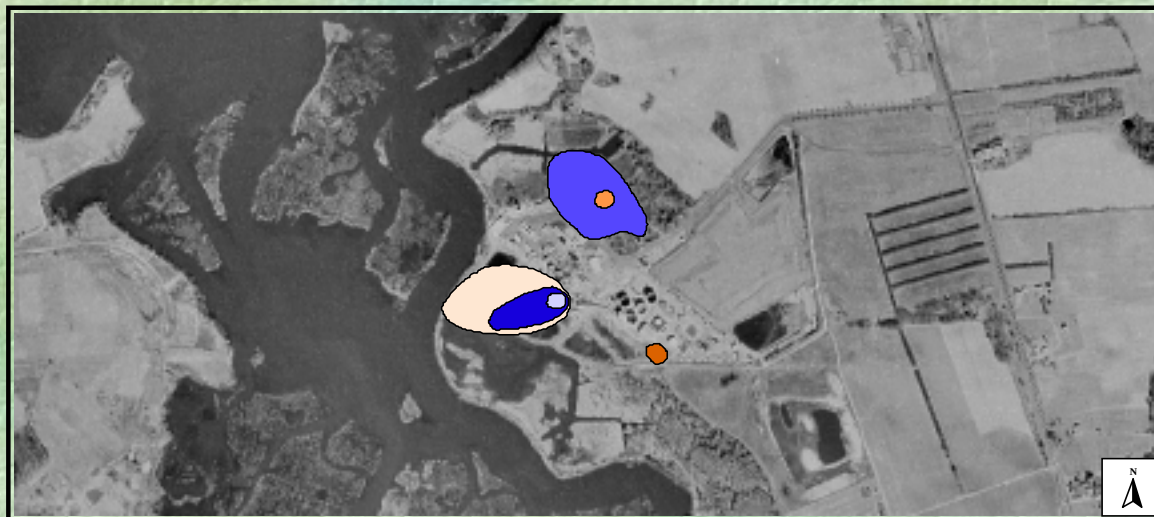
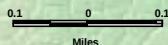
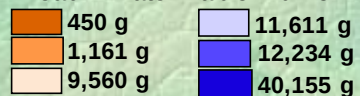


Amount of Groundwater Contamination

The mass of contaminants within the groundwater plume above applicable standards.

The contaminant plume is assumed to extend in a uniform manner through the entire depth of each particular water zone.

Lead - Water Table Plume



QEIC CALCULATIONS



Amount of Extracted Groundwater Contamination

The mass of contaminants physically extracted from plume by active remediation per year.

Trichloroethylene - Water Table Contaminant Mass Removed (1990 - 1998)

0 Abatement Well
Mass removed in grams

0.1 0 0.1
Miles



Limitations: Volume, Time, Data Management.

Refining QEIC estimates and enhancing public communication

☞ Q: How can we overcome 2-D limitations?

☞ A: 3-D analytic & visualization systems.

☞ Q: How do we mark change over time?

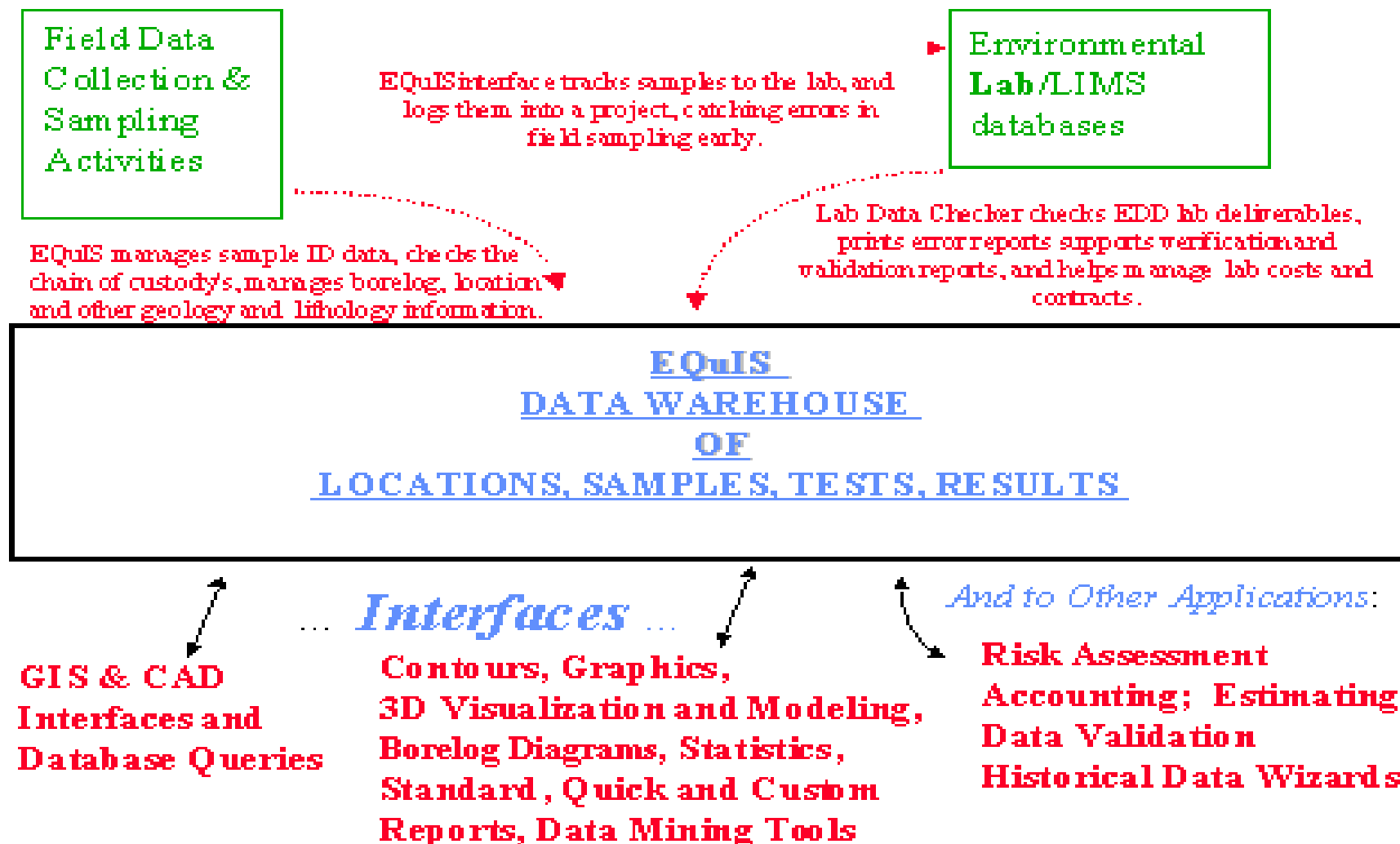
☞ A₁: Past and Present--data management.

A₂: Future--modeling.

☞ Q: How do we handle the additional data to accomplish all this?

☞ A: Employ state-of-the-art environmental data management system.

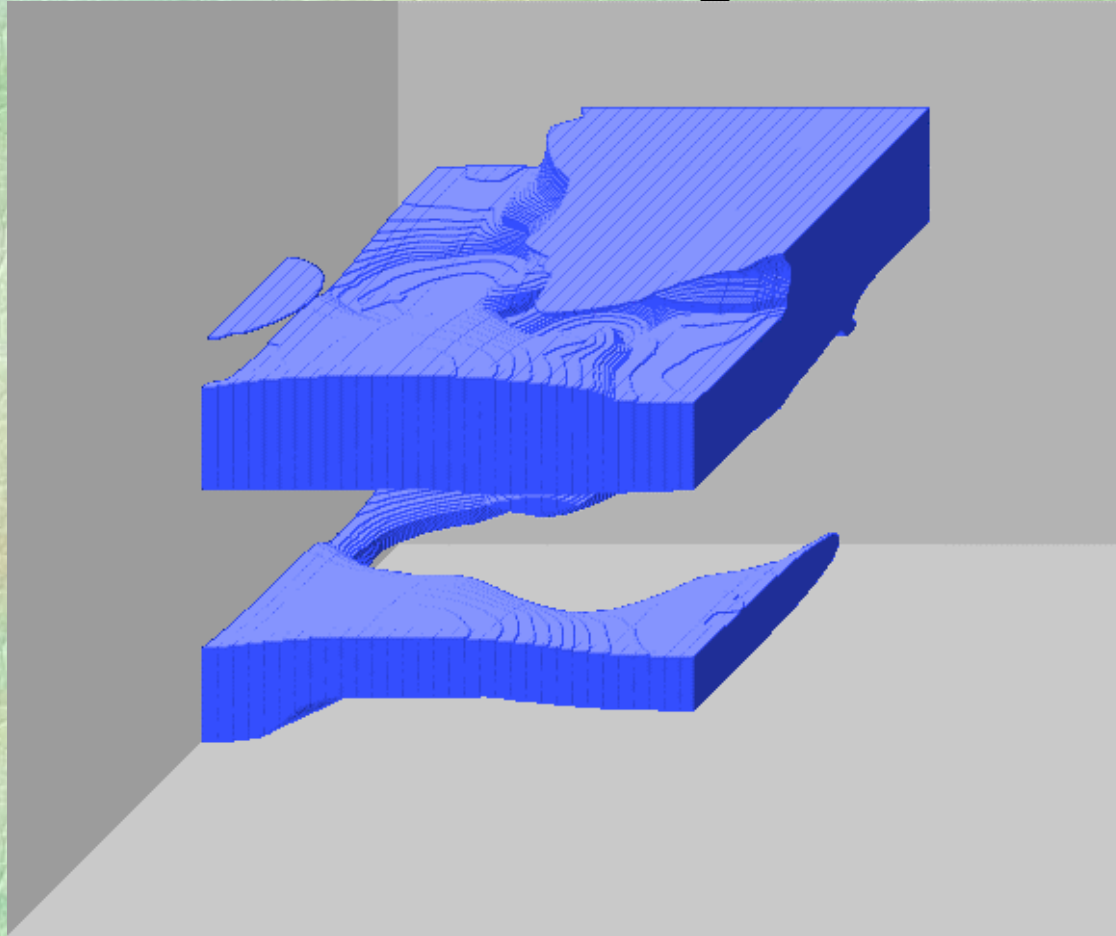
Environmental Quality Information System



EQuIS by EarthSoft Inc.

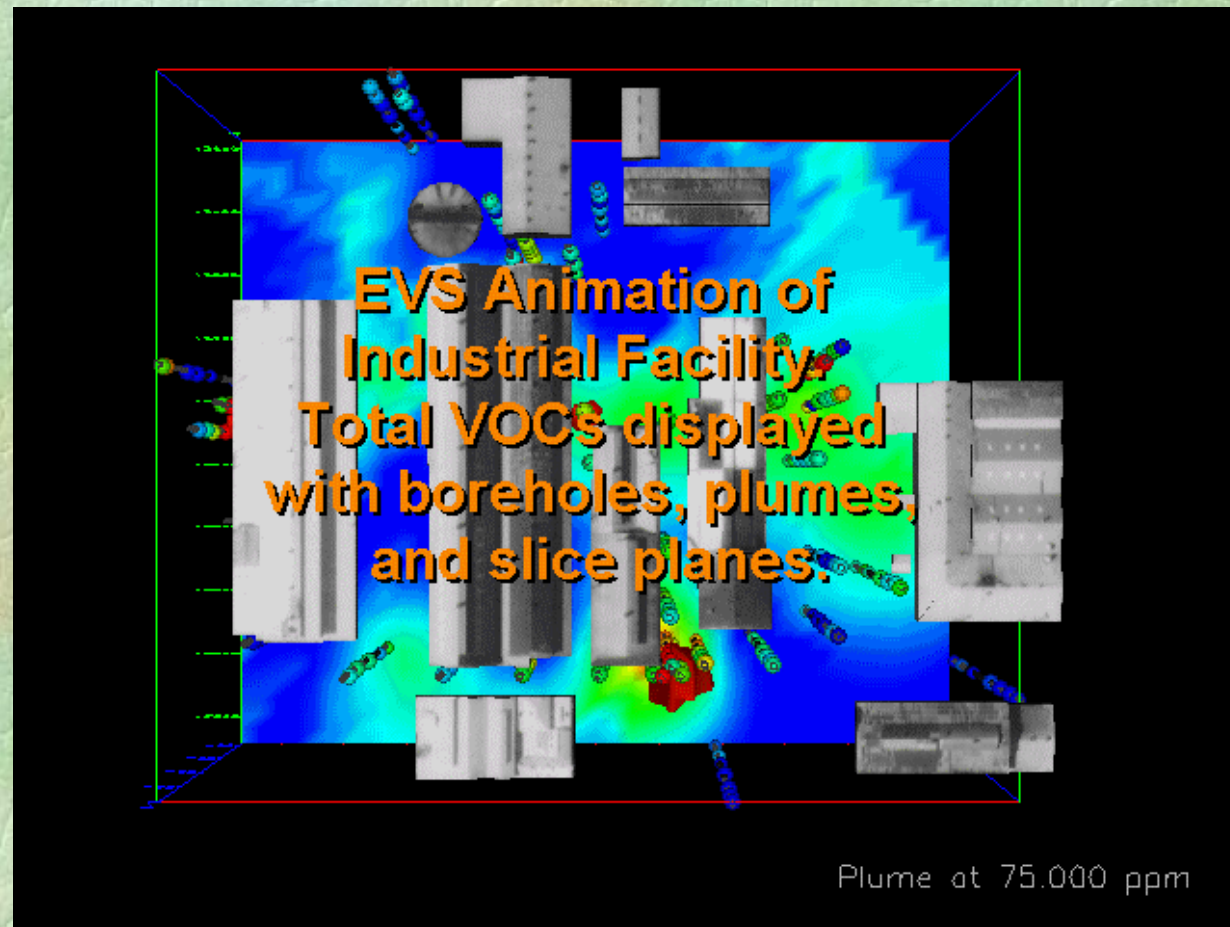
Geology Corrections

Technologies



Rockworks by Rockware, Inc.

Technologies



Environmental Visualization System by C-Tech

Communication through Visualization

- ☞ **Data management system (EQuIS) allows integration of the geology and chemistry data sets for use in GIS and visualizations.**
- ☞ **GIS locates contaminants in two-dimensional space showing the extent of contamination and allowing first level QEIC mass load estimation.**
- ☞ **Visualization adds third and fourth dimensions enhancing QEIC mass load estimates.**
- ☞ **The visualization more closely approximates reality communicating local contamination conditions to the general public more clearly and with greater accuracy.**

FY99 QEIC EMPACT

Goals and Objectives

- ☞ **Complete application of QEIC to contaminated sites in NJ from FY98 and increase the number of sites with QEIC completed in NJ to 100**
- ☞ **Develop methodologies to automate the computation of QEIC from electronic data submissions and integrate existing NJDEP databases.**

FY99 QEIC EMPACT Goals and Objectives

- ☛ Expand application of QEIC to contaminated sites in Pennsylvania and New York state (to complete the Philadelphia & New York EMPACT cities).**
- ☛ Expand application of QEIC to contaminated sites in a new EMPACT city (San Juan, Puerto Rico).**

FY99 QEIC EMPACT Goals and Objectives

- ☞ **Make site-specific QEIC results available to the general public in a comprehensible graphic format (via Internet, newspapers, and meetings).**
- ☞ **Share QEIC methodologies (developed via EMPACT) with international audience.**



