

PARTIAL LISTING OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EVENTS  
IN NORTH CAROLINA

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
1877	N. C. State Board of Health (SBH) established \$100/year appropriation. Disease prevention sought largely through improvement of the environment; clean surroundings, safe drinking water, and sewage disposal.
1879	\$200/year appropriation for SBH.
1880	Four pamphlets entitled "Limitation and Prevention of Diphtheria," "Disinfection, Drainage, Drinking Water, and Disinfectants," "Sanitary Engineering," and "General Conditions" were made available to the public.
1892	Dr. Satchwell--first president of the SBH after attending several typhoid fever patients died of the disease in Burgaw.  First time that "sanitary conveniences" were provided at UNC, Chapel Hill.
1893	SBH given right to ascertain that inland waters are safe as source of domestic supply and to advise cities on their systems of water and sewage disposal.  General Assembly assigned to SBH responsibility to make inspections of all state institutions.
1903	High prevalence of hookworm infestation in the south publicized.
1905	\$600 appropriated for the establishment of the N. C. Laboratory of Hygiene for water analyses.
1907	State Supreme Court ruled "no stream used for drinking purposes can be polluted with raw sewage by any person or company."
1909	First full-time State Health Director--Dr. Watson Smith Rankin.  Law passed requiring all public water supply plans to be filed with SBH.  Rockefeller Sanitary Commission established to eradicate hookworm in the south initiated (major project in NC).
1910	Creation of Bureau of Engineering and Education (now Water Supply Branch).
1911	Guilford County started first county health department in nation.
1912	Robeson County established first rural county health department.

- 1913 Durham, Sampson, Buncombe, Forsyth, and New Hanover Counties established health departments.
- First organized program for mosquito control in the US started at Roanoke Rapids.
- 1914 Forerunner of Sanitation Branch established--the Hookwork Control and Sanitation Division.
- 1917 First recorded reference to Milk Sanitation Act.
- Chapter 66 of General Statutes "An Act to Provide for the Sanitary Inspection and Conduct of Hotels and Restaurants." (Applied to places greater than 12 seats.)
- 1921 Rewrite of 1917 law enacted to adopt a grading system with "A," "B," "C," AND "D," and a minimum score of 70 to remain open.
- 1924 Training sessions for sanitarians set up at UNC-Chapel Hill.
- Typhoid outbreak traced to contaminated shellfish. 1,500 cases in Chicago, New York, Washington, and other cities. Shellfish industry destroyed by publicity.
- 1925 SBH endorsed rules and regulations governing the gathering and handling of shellfish. Recommended their adoption by the N. C. Board of Conservation and Development.
- 1933 Crustacea rules adopted by the SBH.
- 1935 Department of Public Health (School of Public Health) created at UNC.
- Swamp drainage programs started to control mosquitoes and malaria.
- 1936 Hotel and cafe law expanded to cover all facilities that served food to the public for pay.
- 1938 Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Sanitary Engineering Division (SED) reported that 63,434 privies had been constructed.
- 1943 Last documented case of indigenous malaria in NC.
- 1945 Stream Sanitation Study Committee, with J. Maurice Jarrett as Chairman, was established by legislature.
- 1947 MOU developed and implemented which established the cooperative efforts among the NCDA and SBH and local health departments in safeguarding milk supply in NC.
- 1951 Sen. Harold E. Parker, Forsyth County Health Department, was elected President of NCPHA. Was the first "non-physician" to fill this office.

- 1954 Report of Salt Marsh Mosquito Commission--led to enabling legislation for statewide mosquito control program.
- 1958 SED initiated study of air pollution throughout state.
- 1959 Division of Water Pollution Control was transferred to a newly-created State Department of Water Resources.
- State Radiation Control Program established by SBH.
- 1963 Passage of first law with sanitation standards for migrant labor camps.
- 1968 Watershed requirement adopted for 40,000-square-foot lot sizes.
- 1970 Love Valley Rock Festival--Mass Gathering Law and Rules resulted.
- 1971 Statewide Solid Waste adopted by CHS.
- 1972 Department of Environmental Health established at ECU, Greenville, NC.
- Licensing requirements including sanitation standards for child day care facilities established.
- 1973 Passage of landmark "N. C. Ground Absorption Sewage Treatment and Disposal Act" by the N. C. General Assembly. Site evaluation required as well as improvement permit and certificate of completion.
- G.S. 130-160 "Sanitary Sewage Disposal; Rules" amended to delegate rulemaking for septic tank systems, 3,000 gallons or less to CHS. All systems over 3,000 gallons to Board of Water and Air Resources (later Environmental Management Commission).
- 1974 Five additional positions in DHS Shellfish Sanitation Program. Doubled the size of program.
- Safe Drinking Water Act enacted by Congress.
- 1976 Three permanent shellfish laboratories--Manteo, Morehead City, and Wilmington--were established to replace the mobile lab which had been used for many years.
- 1977 G.S. 130-160 was amended to allow counties to operate under local board of health rules after rules have been reviewed and approved by the DHS.
- Effective date of NC's first "Comprehensive Sewage Rules Governing Septic Tank Systems."
- 1978 PCB deliberately spilled along various highways in NC.
- 1980 NC granted primacy for carrying out the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974.

1981 NC granted interim authorization to carry out the Hazardous Waste Program in NC--third state in nation.

Report of Ad Hoc Committee for Mosquito Control--led to realignment of mosquito control program to a scientific approach to mosquito control.

"Ground Absorption Sewage Treatment and Disposal Act of 1981" ratified. Changed jurisdiction by returning to DHR & CHS all private subsurface disposal sewage systems.

1982 Passage of "An Act to Amend the Laws Regulating Sanitarians" requiring all practicing sanitarians to be registered.

Substantial amendments to sewage rules adopted by CHS. Amended (substantial) sewage rules became effective. Significant changes included requiring repair area, recognizing the LPP system as an alternative, and adjusting design flows and application rates. Also, for first time, percolation tests no longer recognized; design based solely on soil characteristics.

1983 Public health laws recodified into Chapter 130A (Ref. Art. 11 of Chapter 130A.) Principal impacts: 1) administrative penalties available as remedy in addition to injunctions and criminal penalties; 2) clarified local rulemaking authority; 3) required operation permit for all systems except the conventional STS serving 480 gallons or less facilities and single-family residences; 4) allowed both the improvement and operation permit to be conditioned; 5) required CHS to adopt rules to provide for "exceptions" to the design flow rule.

1984 Adoption of statewide Grade A Milk Sanitation rules by the Commission for Health Services (CHS).

Final authorization granted by EPA to administer RCRA law.

NOTE: Although every attempt was made to include noteworthy events affecting environmental health programs, it is recognized that some events have been overlooked. This listing was prepared by Sanitation Branch with input from the other branches of the Environmental Health Section, NC Division of Health Services.