



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD - **Public Hearing**

Conrail Derailment in Paulsboro, NJ with Vinyl Chloride Release

GROUP	6
EXHIBIT	
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Agency / Organization

New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection

Title

**Biography Robert R Van Fossen
NJ DEP Director Emergency Mgmt.**

Robert R. Van Fossen

Director, Emergency Management
New Jersey Department Environmental Protection

Education

Rider College, Lawrenceville, NJ , B.S. -Business Administration -1978
Rutgers University, Certified Public Manager Program -1992

Bob Van Fossen has held numerous titles within the Department since 1990, with an emphasis on emergency management. He has been Director of Emergency Management since 2011, reporting directly to the Deputy Commissioner and before that as Assistant Director of Emergency Management for 11 years. As Director, he identifies and develops Department-wide priorities goals, procedures, and structures pertaining to emergency management, with an emphasis on planning for Homeland Security, Emergency Management and Communications.

Mr. Van Fossen coordinates DEP resources during emergencies within the State, including dispatching resources such vehicles, staff or experts to locations to support response actions. Mr. Van Fossen has acted as DEP Emergency Response Coordinator and Incident Commander. He is the Department liaison with other agencies including Federal Emergency Management Agency and New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management (“State Police OEM”), and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security Domestic Preparedness Task Force which plans for responses to terrorism. Mr. Van Fossen participates in regional emergency planning groups, including on the Philadelphia Coast Guard Area Response Committee and the Response Team for USEPA Region 2. He administers DEP cost recovery actions after federally declared emergencies.

Prior to working in DEP’s Emergency Response Division, Mr. Van Fossen was Bureau Chief and then Assistant Director of DEP’s Site Remediation Division responsible for DEP’s response to spills of hazardous substances, site assessment and field operations. Over the course of his 23 years at the Department, Mr. Van Fossen has taken continuing education courses in such areas as incident command and health and safety.