The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation’s Bureau of Municipal Services (BMS) continues to support The New Products Evaluation Program for Lower Volume Local Roads. To help reduce costs for county and local governments, the program provides an expanded list of approved products that are eligible for liquid fuels funds expenditures. Because these products are designed for lower volume local roads, they reduce costs for purchasing and/or installation compared to similar higher volume highway products.

This program was initiated in March 2004 to allow manufacturers to submit their innovative products and processes to BMS for evaluation. This evaluation process, shown on the reverse, consists of several essential steps:

- After submitting an Application for Product Evaluation, PennDOT’s New Products Evaluation Team (NPET) determines whether product testing is required.
- If testing is required, the applicant chooses an approved Testing Facility to test and evaluate the product.
- An Evaluation Report prepared by the Testing Facility is reviewed by relevant PennDOT Districts and Bureaus.
- Recommendations from PennDOT Districts and Bureaus are considered by the NPET, who in turn submit their recommendations to PennDOT’s Office of Chief Counsel (OCC) for legal review.
- The Director of BMS considers recommendations of the Districts and Bureaus, the NPET, and the OCC in reaching a final approval or rejection decision.
- Approved products are listed in PennDOT’s Publication 447, Approved Products for Lower Volume Local Roads and on the web site http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/Bureaus/pdBMS.nsf/Programs?openFrameset

Prospective applicants should also keep in mind these important points:

- Elapsed time from application to final decision is typically 12 – 24 months.
- The applicant pays Testing Facility costs.
- The New Products Evaluation Team includes seven PennDOT members and three municipal representatives.

Innovative products and processes enhance cost savings, safety, maintenance, and durability of lower volume local roads. These are significant benefits to local governments and the traveling public they serve. Manufacturers benefit when their products appear in Publication 447, Approved Products for Lower Volume Local Roads, used by all local governments in Pennsylvania.

For more information, please contact Jim Smedley (jsmedley@state.pa.us).