

## LOCAL REPORT

# Company honored for environmental concern

## STAFF REPORT

A Linden Avenue company has been recognized by the New Jersey Water Environmental Association for improving the firm's process water discharge.

**LINDEN**

"It's nice to be recognized. I'm very proud of it. It shows we're environmentally concerned," said Rose Bussiculo, president of Epicor Inc., a powdered ion exchange resin manufacturer.

In Atlantic City, the company — which has 25 workers including management — last week received the

Ecker Excellence in Industrial Wastewater Treatment certificate.

According to Bussiculo, when Epicor moved across the street from its present location in May 1994, the company undertook a major expense in an ultrafiltration system to reuse its water. As a result, the company no longer discharges its water, nor does it have to store hazardous chemicals on site, she said.

Resins are used in the purification of water in a concept similar to a home water softening system. When the water is turned on, it is freed of contaminants such as iron, sodium and calcium.

Each production run starts with extremely clean water because all of the process water is filtered through the ultrafilter and then sent to the storage tanks. The storage tank water is then sent through in-house ion exchange polishers.

With the new ultrafiltration system, process water discharge is now at zero, company officials said. Previously, it was several thousand gallons to 15,000 gallons per day.

Use of the ultrafiltration system has resulted in a cost-savings of about \$19,000 during the first year of service, according to the company.