

## DEC opens <sup>4/3/77</sup> office in Willowbrook

BY ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will hold a grand opening later this month for its new Staten Island field office, the agency's spokesman said.

The spokesman, Ben Marvin, said three staff members will be stationed full time at an office in the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, and that several others will use the location as a base.

Marvin was unable to offer a firm date for the opening.

The spokesman said the staff would include a wildlife biologist to answer questions about wetlands and receive permit applications, as well as an environmental-conservation specialist and a receptionist.

Staten Islanders have been lobbying for a DEC field office for several years, arguing that the borough has 50 percent of the city's wetlands and the world's largest sanitary landfill.

The decision to put a DEC field office on Staten Island came shortly after the agency's regional headquarters, which covers the five boroughs, moved from the World Trade Center to Long Island City.