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NJ Clean Water Council Public Hearing

Water Policy & Climate Change

Monday, December 7, 2009
Public Hearing Room, 401 East State Street, Trenton NJ

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Mount Olive Township Clerk's Office

Purpose of the Hearing

The Clean Water Council of New Jersey is seeking public testimony on the risks posed to water quality and water infrastructure by climate change and on effective means to adaptively manage the risks. Climate change is causing warmer air and surface water temperatures, more intense storms intermixed with longer periods of dry weather, and rising sea levels. While the contributory causes can be debated, the potential impacts of climate change on water resources and related infrastructure need to be identified and properly managed.

Agenda

- 9:00 Welcome & Introductions ~ *Russell Furnari, Chairman NJCWC*
- 9:10 Opening Remarks ~ *Mark Mauriello, Acting Commissioner, NJDEP*
- 9:20 Climate Change in New Jersey ~ *Dr. David Robinson, NJ State Climatologist*
- 9:40 Climate Change & Water Resource Management ~ *Carol Collier, Executive Director, Delaware River Basin Commission*
- 10:00 NJ's Climate Change & Water Resource Policy Initiatives ~ *Dr. Marjorie Kaplan, Office of Climate & Energy, NJDEP*
- 10:30 Public Testimony

The Council welcomes testimony on the following questions:

- *What are the high priority risks to clean water posed by the increasing variability of climate and weather events?*
- *What changes to water management policies are needed to increase flexibility and adaptive management, and how will NJ meet the cost?*

Specific recommendations on the following issue areas are encouraged:

- *Stormwater*
- *Wastewater*
- *Drinking water*
- *Instream/pass-by flows*
- *Agriculture and green industry*
- *Water infrastructure*

Persons who have not pre-registered and wish to give public testimony should do so at the registration table. Council requests that remarks be limited to 5 minutes and encourages the submission of written comments to the NJ Clean Water Council c/o Geraldine Skrajewski at Municipal Finance & Construction Element, PO Box 425, Trenton, NJ 08625 or geraldine.skrajewski@dep.state.nj.us .

Water Policy & Climate Change

*An Informational Session and Public Hearing sponsored by the
Clean Water Council of New Jersey*

Monday, December 7th, 2009, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

**NJ Department of Environmental Protection - Public Hearing Room
401 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey**

PURPOSE OF THE HEARING

The Clean Water Council of New Jersey seeks public testimony on the risks posed to water quality and water infrastructure by climate change and on effective means to adaptively manage the risks. Climate change is causing warmer air and surface water temperatures, more intense storms intermixed with longer periods of dry weather, and rising sea levels. While the contributory causes can be debated, the potential impacts of climate change on water resources and related infrastructure need to be identified and properly managed. The Council has formulated two questions for public consideration and response. Based upon the testimony at this hearing, the Council will develop a set of recommendations for the NJDEP Commissioner. Therefore, the members seek comments from interested persons so that they can recommend improvements to New Jersey's approach to water resource policy issues.

HOW TO TESTIFY

The Council will provide 5 minutes per oral presentation. The Council encourages the submittal of detailed written comments on disk or CD as well as paper, to augment your testimony. Written comments will be accepted until December 31, 2009, and can be sent to the Clean Water Council of New Jersey, c/o DEP - Division of Water Quality, 401 East State Street, P.O. Box 425, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0425 or by fax at (609) 341-4518. If submitting on disk or CD, the preferred format is Microsoft Word 6.0 or above. Macintosh formats should not be used.

For more information, please contact Stanley Cach at stanley.cach@dep.state.nj.us or (609) 292-8961. To reserve a time period to testify in person, please contact Gerry Skrajewski at geraldine.skrajewski@dep.state.nj.us or (609) 292-8961.

BACKGROUND

Under New Jersey law, the Clean Water Council of New Jersey is required to hold a public hearing once a year regarding water pollution related issues and report its recommendations to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Specifically the Council seeks input and examples that address the following questions:

- What are the high priority risks to clean water posed by the increasing variability of climate and weather events?
- What changes to water management policies are needed to increase flexibility and adaptive management, and how will NJ meet the cost?

Specific recommendations on the following issue areas, as well as others, are welcomed:

- STORMWATER
- WASTEWATER
- DRINKING WATER
- INSTREAM/PASS-BY FLOWS
- AGRICULTURE & GREEN INDUSTRY
- WATER INFRASTRUCTURE



The Clean Water Council of New Jersey

Public Hearings