

To: All Invitees to the Stakeholder Meeting Regarding N.J.A.C. 7:22, "Financial Assistance Programs for Environmental Infrastructure Facilities"

Date/Time/Location: Wednesday, September 29, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

DEP Public Hearing Room
First Floor
401 East State Street, Trenton, NJ

For Directions, go to - <http://www.nj.gov/dep/where.htm>

N.J.A.C. 7:22 consists of the rules established by the Department and the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust (Trust) that govern the administration of the Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program (including the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Programs, the Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Financing Program and the State Matching Grants Program) as well as related rules (including Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Business (SED) Utilization, Environmental Review Requirements, etc.). Chapter 22 is scheduled to sunset on December 8, 2010. Accordingly, the proposal must be filed by the Department with the Office of Administrative Law on or before that date in order to avoid a lapse in the rules.

The rules being discussed contain ten subchapters. Subchapter 1 is reserved. Subchapter 2 contains the rules that establish the matching State grants program for projects that received Federal Construction Grants. Subchapters 3, 4, and 5 contain the rules governing the Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program. Subchapters 6 and 7 contain the rules governing the Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Financing Program. Subchapter 8 establishes minimum standards of conduct for utilities officers, employees, agents and members participating in these State financial assistance programs. Subchapter 9 governs socially and economically disadvantaged contractor participation requirements pursuant to this chapter and N.J.A.C. 7:22A (Sewage Infrastructure Improvement Act rules). Subchapter 10 establishes environmental assessment requirements that apply to all environmental infrastructure projects pursuing financial assistance pursuant to this chapter and N.J.A.C. 7:22A.

At the stakeholder meeting, the Department will be discussing the existing rules in consideration of the topics outlined in Governor Christie's Executive Orders 1, 2, 3 and 4. Among the topics planned to be discussed are the economic impacts of the existing rules on New Jersey's economy and a comparison of the intended benefits and the burdens that the rules place on the regulated entities. This will include a federal standards comparison and a discussion of the loan application processing time, the extent and content of required submissions, and the applicability of "waiver" provisions.

The meeting is not a formal public hearing and no transcription of the meetings will be made.