

## **COMPLIANCE ADVISORY**

# **UPDATE**

Making You Aware of Incentives and Compliance Assistance Opportunities

**Compliance & Enforcement** 

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# Introducing the Proposed Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Online Submission Form and Map

#### What is a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP)?

A SEP is an environmentally beneficial project that a respondent, someone who has violated an environmental law or regulation, voluntarily agrees to perform as a condition of settling an enforcement action. A SEP is an activity that the respondent would not otherwise have been required to perform, and in which the public or the environment is the primary beneficiary. Since January 2010, seventy-two SEPs have been implemented. DEP recommends projects that either reduce the environmental impact on overburdened communities, enhance Barnegat Bay and its watershed, or align with a category of DEP's stewardship program. The 21 stewardship categories can be found here.

An online proposed SEP submission form has been created to make it easier for eligible organizations (see below) to propose SEPs and to expedite the matching process between a respondent and a DEP approved SEP project.

#### Who can submit a proposed SEP project?

Municipalities, municipal committees, counties, non-profit organizations, agencies, clubs and organizations are encouraged to submit proposed SEP projects which fit all DEP guidelines, terms and conditions. All projects are to be submitted to <a href="SEP@dep.nj.gov">SEP@dep.nj.gov</a>. Approved SEP projects could then be matched with a respondent for the respondent to carry out.

#### What do I need to know to submit a proposed SEP?

To be considered as a potential SEP project, proposed SEP submission forms must meet all department guidelines, terms and conditions, which are found in our <u>instructions form</u>. Acceptable proposed SEP projects are projects that will result in direct and significant public health or environmental protection improvements or enhancement. The proposed SEP will address the needs of the community where the SEP is located. Information about a variety of successful SEPs can be found on the <u>Compliance and Enforcement webpage</u>. These completed SEPs include rain gardens, solar panel installations, construction of parks, preserves and sanctuaries, and stream and wetland enhancement.

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SEP monies cannot be used for administrative work, permit fees, engineering design costs, salaries, etc. The posting of a proposed SEP project does not guarantee that the project will be chosen by a respondent.

#### I've submitted a proposed SEP project, what's the next step?

After a project is submitted a confirmation email will be sent acknowledging the receipt of the submission. DEP will review the application and ensure that it meets all relevant guidelines, terms and conditions. If there are any questions related to the submission, DEP will contact the organization responsible for the submission. Once DEP has deemed the project an acceptable SEP, an email will be sent to the organization responsible for the submission informing it of the project acceptance and when the project will be posted to the online GIS map. Once it is posted to the GIS map the proposed SEP will be available for a respondent to review the project and potentially select it as a SEP.

#### Who should I contact with questions?

Questions can be directed to the Bureau of Compliance Support and Pollution Prevention in the Compliance and Enforcement Program at 609-984-0799 or <a href="mailto:SEP@dep.nj.gov">SEP@dep.nj.gov</a>.

#### Where can I get more information?

<u>Click here</u> for more SEP information, and follow the link provided below to assess the proposed SEP submission form, a map of current and approved proposed SEPs and a longitude and latitude to the NJ state plane (US Feet) conversion widget.

http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/sep-proposals.html

In addition, DEP's Compliance and Enforcement Program (C&E) is on Facebook. Our goal is to provide our stakeholders and the regulated community a new way to connect and share relevant and useful compliance assistance topics, upcoming training, regulatory updates and recent advisories on a regular basis. Click on <a href="https://www.facebook.com/NJDEPComplianceandEnforcement">https://www.facebook.com/NJDEPComplianceandEnforcement</a> and "Like" our page to receive up-to-date information as soon as it is available.



Compliance Advisory Homepage: <a href="http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/advisories.html">http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/advisories.html</a> Advisory Comments may be directed to: <a href="http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/survey.html">http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/survey.html</a>

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a department initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions related to compliance with this initiative, please contact the Enforcement number listed above.