

A Resilient New Jersey: Adapting Water Infrastructure to the “New Normal”

A Public Hearing sponsored by the New Jersey Clean Water Council

Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

NJ Department of Environmental Protection - Public Hearing Room (1st Floor)
401 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey

PURPOSE OF THE HEARING

The New Jersey Clean Water Council seeks public testimony on improving the resilience of our water infrastructure. A term with many meanings, **resilience can be considered “the capacity to adapt successfully in the presence of risk and adversity.”** There is no question that our water infrastructure has been the victim of **adversity** over the years – Tropical Storm Irene and Superstorm Sandy are only the two most recent catastrophic events. Whether the causes are river flooding, coastal storm surges and wave action, high winds, power failures or inadequate asset management, the risks to water infrastructure are becoming clearer and of greater concern with each year.

NJDEP Commissioner, Bob Martin, and other speakers are scheduled to provide an overview of the water infrastructure damage from recent storms, summarize funding opportunities for rebuilding efforts, and address DEP resiliency policy initiatives. Public testimony will follow immediately after the speakers. Following the hearing, the Clean Water Council will provide its recommendations to the Commissioner.

REQUEST FOR TESTIMONY

The Council seeks input and reaction to the following questions:

- What are the major issues that need to be addressed to improve water infrastructure resiliency (e.g., back- up power supplies, flood protection, communication)?
- How can DEP, BPU and DCA best encourage improved resiliency?
- How can DEP facilitate 'resource sharing' (e.g., information, back-up power, hardware, etc.) between utilities and local governments before, during and after significant events?
- How can DEP best encourage collaborative efforts between local government and other water infrastructure owners to build resiliency, protect water quality and preserve water supplies?
- What technical assistance can DEP provide to support the long-term sustainability of water infrastructure and operations?
- How can DEP encourage the use of Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development to protect water quality and improve resiliency of water infrastructure?
- What requirements should be placed on grants and loans for utility rebuilding efforts?
- What types of technical standards should DEP require for “resilient” infrastructure?

HOW TO TESTIFY

The Council will provide 5 minutes per oral presentation and strongly encourages the submittal of detailed written comments by email or on paper, to augment your testimony. Written comments will be accepted until April 30, 2013, and can be sent to the New Jersey Clean Water Council, c/o NJDEP - 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 electronically (email, flash drive or CD), the preferred format is Microsoft Word® 2003 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 schedule testimony, contact Gerry Skrajewski at geraldine.skrajewski@dep.state.nj.us or (609) 292-8961.