

Division of Water Quality
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December 17, 2004

**PUBLIC NOTICE/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
REGARDING THE FFY2005 PROJECT PRIORITY LIST
(CLEAN WATER FINANCING)**

In June 2005, the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) issued its Proposed FFY2005 Priority System, Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List document for public review and comment. After the close of the comment period, the Department developed a Response Document and made appropriate revisions/clarifications to the Priority System document and sent the final FFY2005 Priority System to the US Environmental Protection Agency for their review and approval. As part of the FFY2005 Priority System, the Department established a process through which the FFY2005 Priority List would be updated mid-year.

The primary purpose of this notice is to put forth a revised and updated FFY2005 Project Priority List that includes all of the projects, including those new projects that met the October commitment letter submittal deadline, for public review and comment. Thus, a comprehensive list of projects pursuing financing under the traditional schedule is now available. The Municipal Finance and Construction Element (MF&CE) in the Division of Water Quality has developed the FFY2005 Priority List in conformance with the ranking methodology contained in the FFY2005 Priority System document. This comprehensive list can be found at the Department's web site at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/cwpl.htm> and is also available either electronically or in printed form by contacting our office at (609) 292-3859.

The public comment period for the revised and updated FFY2005 Project Priority List will close on January 17, 2005. All comments submitted in accordance with the deadline given above will be considered in the preparation of a revised final FFY2005 Project Priority List.

The Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program (Financing Program) is a partnership between the Department and the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust (Trust). The clean water financing aspects of the Financing Program provide low cost financing to local government units for the implementation of a wide variety of wastewater, stormwater and nonpoint source management projects, including open space land acquisition, landfill closure and construction and site remediation activities.

In addition, this notice serves as a reminder to potential project sponsors that the 2005 Financing Program includes second chance provisions to accommodate project sponsors that missed the initial application deadline of October 4, 2004. Sponsors of such projects will be given a second opportunity to participate in the 2005 Financing Program provided they are able to file a commitment letter to meet the 2005 Program deadlines and submit complete planning and design documents, a loan application and proof that all applicable DEP permits/approvals have been applied for **on or before March 7, 2005**. Projects that met the October deadline will be given higher priority for eligibility for long-term funding than second chance projects and will have a better opportunity to participate in the Trust's interim financing program in the current funding cycle. In addition to the documentation above, sponsors of projects not currently listed on the FFY2005 Priority List will also need to submit a Project Status/Cost Update Form in order to be considered for the second chance opportunity in the 2005 Financing Program.

For questions regarding this notice or for copies of the comprehensive list, please contact Theresa Fenton, Chief, Bureau of Program Development and Technical Services, MF&CE, at (609) 292-3859.

To arrange a pre-planning meeting for a land acquisition project, please contact Scott Shymon, Supervisor, Program Development and Land Acquisition Unit at (609) 292-3859. For all other projects, please contact Gautam Patel, Chief, Bureau of Finance and Construction Permits, at (609) 984-6840.

Thank you, in advance, for your input.

Sincerely,

Stanley V. Cach, Jr., Assistant Director
Municipal Finance and Construction Element
Division of Water Quality