

Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner  
Department of Environmental Protection  
P.O. Box 402  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

RE: MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT  
Results of the Clean Water Council's 2004 Public Hearing

Dear Commissioner Campbell:

On behalf of the New Jersey Clean Water Council, I am pleased to submit the results of the Public Hearing conducted by the Clean Water Council on October 14, 2004 on the subject of "Meeting the Challenges of Stormwater Management." The purpose of the public hearing was to help the Clean Water Council (and the audience) understand the implications of New Jersey's new direction in stormwater management, so that we could make recommendations as to how that program might be improved.

The hearing started with a facilitated, round-robin discussion with eleven experts discussing the financial, institutional and political complexities of stormwater management, in response to ten questions posed by the moderator. Then the public was invited to submit comments.

Council members and the audience of over 100 people learned a great deal during the three hour event. Pointing out that these rules represent the first time that regulations have acknowledged that the State's water supply is dependent upon the management of its stormwater runoff, many speakers predicted that it will take years before people have fully integrated this new perspective into their operations. Creation of stormwater utilities was viewed as the best method to insure that these stormwater rules are successfully implemented. This would ensure that stormwater management would be carried out on the same professional level as water supply and wastewater management. Much work needs to be done to educate elected officials, professional engineers and the general public about how stormwater management should be done, how much it will cost, and how the costs can be covered.

Attached please find, for use by you and your staff, an executive summary of the testimony, a transcript of the panel discussion, an index to that transcript which gives the first page on which each question's discussion starts, a transcript of the public comment session and three letters submitted after the hearing.

The council members hope that this information will enable the Department to improve the ways in which it oversees the management of the State's water resources. We invite you to attend one of our meetings in the near future to discuss these recommendations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pat Matarazzo  
Chairman

C: Lisa Jackson  
Larry Baier  
Barry Chalofsky  
Bruce Friedman  
Kerry Pflugh

Attachments:

Executive summary of the panel discussion  
Transcript of the panel discussion  
Transcript of the public comment session  
Index to Transcript of questions discussed by the panel  
Copies of the three letters submitted during the public comment period