

# Water Policy & Climate Change

*An Informational Session and Public Hearing sponsored by the  
Clean Water Council of New Jersey*

**Monday, December 7th, 2009, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
**NJ Department of Environmental Protection - Public Hearing Room**  
**401 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey**

## **PURPOSE OF THE HEARING**

The Clean Water Council of New Jersey seeks public testimony on the risks posed to water quality and water infrastructure by climate change and on effective means to adaptively manage the risks. Climate change is causing warmer air and surface water temperatures, more intense storms intermixed with longer periods of dry weather, and rising sea levels. While the contributory causes can be debated, the potential impacts of climate change on water resources and related infrastructure need to be identified and properly managed. The Council has formulated two questions for public consideration and response. Based upon the testimony at this hearing, the Council will develop a set of recommendations for the NJDEP Commissioner. Therefore, the members seek comments from interested persons so that they can recommend improvements to New Jersey's approach to water infrastructure issues.

## **HOW TO TESTIFY**

The Council will provide 5 minutes per oral presentation. The Council encourages the submittal of detailed written comments on disk or CD as well as paper, to augment your testimony. Written comments will be accepted until December 31, 2009, and can be sent to the Clean Water Council of New Jersey, c/o DEP - 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 on disk or CD, the preferred format is Microsoft Word 6.0 or above. Macintosh formats should not be used.

**For more information, please contact Stanley Cach at [stanley.cach@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:stanley.cach@dep.state.nj.us) or (609) 292-8961. To reserve a time period to testify in person, please contact Gerry Skrajewski at [geraldine.skrajewski@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:geraldine.skrajewski@dep.state.nj.us) or (609) 292-8961.**

## **BACKGROUND**

Under New Jersey law, the Clean Water Council of New Jersey is required to hold a public hearing once a year regarding water pollution related issues and report its recommendations to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Specifically the Council seeks input and examples that address the following questions:

- What are the high priority risks to clean water posed by the increasing variability of climate and weather events?
- What changes to water management policies are needed to increase flexibility and adaptive management, and how will NJ meet the cost?

Specific recommendations on the following issue areas, as well as others, are welcomed:

- |                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| - STORMWATER     | - INSTREAM/PASS-BY FLOWS       |
| - WASTEWATER     | - AGRICULTURE & GREEN INDUSTRY |
| - DRINKING WATER | - WATER INFRASTRUCTURE         |



**The Clean Water Council of New Jersey**

**Public Hearings**