

Presentation & Public Hearing
A RESILIENT NEW JERSEY: ADAPTING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE TO
THE “NEW NORMAL”

Tuesday, April 9, 2013
NJ Department of Environmental Protection Public Hearing Room
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 New Jersey’s 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 consider the public testimony and prepare recommendations to the Commissioner for adapting New Jersey’s water infrastructure to accommodate the “new normal”.

AGENDA

- 9:00 **Welcome/Opening Comments/Introductions -**
NJCWC Chairperson Pamela Goodwin, Esq. (Partner Saul Ewing LLP)
- 9:10 **Keynote Speaker -**
Commissioner Bob Martin, NJDEP
- 9:30 Assistant Commissioner Michele Siekerka, NJDEP
Water Resource Management
- 10:00 **Brief Q & A [No public testimony taken at this time]**
- 10:15 **Break**
- 10:30 **Commence Public Testimony**

Specifically, 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?