



NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL MEETING

April 11, 2023 @ 10:00 A.M. via Microsoft Teams Meeting

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

INTRODUCTIONS

Tony McCracken called meeting to order at 10:02am

Council Participants (10): George Bakun, Amy Goldsmith, Sandra Howland, Maria Connolly, Ashley Kerr, David Kovach, Justin Baker, Jim Cosgrove, Tony McCracken, Pamela Goodwin

DEP Participants (6): John Adegoke, Kerri Standowski, Christine Enright, Susan Rosenwinkel, Jennifer Feltis Cortese, John Murray

Public Participants (2): Wale Adewunmi, Thomas Amidon

APPROVAL OF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- December 13, 2022 – Approved: Jim Cosgrove Motioned, Amy Goldsmith Second

DEP UPDATES

John Murray provided the program updates:

1. **Administrative Order 2023-01 for PFAS Data Sharing:** Commissioner LaTourette signed Administrative Order 2023-01 on January 17, 2023, to encourage the collection of PFAS data from sewer treatment plants (whether from their own systems or their users as appropriate). This data will aid in efforts to identify, reduce and eliminate sources of PFAS in wastewater and its residuals. The AO has been posted on the DWQ webpage <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/pfas.htm>.
The DWQ is working with a subcommittee to develop a guidance for submitting data to the Department.
2. **Request for Information- PFAS Monitoring:** The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) issued Request for Information PFAS monitoring letters to the third (final) group of Industrial Discharge to Surface Water and Significant Indirect User facilities. Permittees received the Request for Information issued on October 5, 2022, with submissions due by February 1, 2023. With the issuance of these latest requests, all industrial dischargers to surface water and SIU permittees have been required to collect PFAS samples.
3. **CSO Public Hearing (North Bergen Woodcliff STP and the Town of Guttenberg):** The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) conducted a virtual public hearing on January 23, 2023, for the first two renewal NJPDES CSO permits (issued December 9, 2022) namely North Bergen Woodcliff STP and the Town of Guttenberg. Approximately 80 participants were in attendance. Commenters expressed general support but there were comments which focused on the need for guidance on public engagement, more Green Infrastructure earlier in the LTCP implementation schedule and general concerns on flooding. The public comment period ended February 13, 2023.
4. **Release of draft NJPDES CSO permits for North Hudson Sewerage Authority (NHSA) – Adams Street and River Road Wastewater Treatment Plants:** The CSO Program issued a draft NJPDES CSO permit for NHSA-Adams Street

(Hoboken, Weehawken and Union City) on March 3, 2023 and a draft NJPDES CSO permit for NHSA-River Road (West New York, Weehawken, and Union City) on March 6, 2023. Each permit incorporates the construction schedules from their respective Long Term Control Plan. The permits also announced a shared public hearing and public comment period. The (virtual) public hearing is scheduled for April 17, 2023 and the end of the comment period is set for May 15, 2023 at 11:59pm. The draft permits and information regarding the April 17, 2023 public hearings are posted on the CSO webpage.

5. **NJPDES Discharge to Surface Water Permit Renewal (Solvay Specialty Polymers – West Deptford):** The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) issued a final NJPDES Discharge to Surface Water permit renewal for Solvay in West Deptford, Gloucester County on January 10, 2023. This permit incorporated a technology-based approach namely a minimum percent removal requirement for PFNA and PFOA. PFNA and PFOA will also serve as surrogate parameters for the remaining PFAS and replacement compounds.
6. **NJPDES Fees – Stakeholder Meeting on Proposed Changes:** The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) held a NJPDES Fee Stakeholder Meeting on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 to discuss potential changes to the NJPDES fee rule. This event was a follow-up to a previous meeting held on April 20, 2022. Seventeen (17) stakeholders participated in the call with six providing feedback. Overall, the discussion was productive as participants agreed with the Department’s approach.
7. **Public Hearing for the FY2023 NJPDES Fee Report and Assessment of Fees:** The Division of Water Quality conducted a virtual public hearing on Thursday, February 2, 2023 on the FY2023 NJPDES Fee Report and Assessment of Fees. Seven participants were in attendance and two submitted verbal testimony. The public comment period for the FY2023 NJPDES Fee Report and Assessment of Fees ended on February 2, 2023.
8. **Water Bank / Proposed Intended Use Plans (IUPs):** The Division of Water Quality and Division of Water Supply and Geoscience conducted a virtual public hearing on Wednesday February 1, 2023 on the Proposed SFY 2024 Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plans (IUPs). Eight (8) participants were in attendance. The 30-day public comment period closed on February 17, 2023. The Division is drafting responses to received comments and finalization of the draft IUP is expected in late May/early June 2023.
9. **Other:**
 - a. Introduced Susan Rosenwinkel as being named Assistant Director for the Water Pollution Management Element and sharing Division responsibilities with Charles Jenkins who was also named Assistant Director for Municipal Finance and Construction Element.
 - b. The Council and DEP staff briefly discussed PFAS Treatment options, and that to date granular activated carbon (GAC) filters - have been determined to be best treatment for PFAS for drinking water.
 - c. NJPDES discharge to surface water permits with PFAS limits do not dictate treatment type. NJDEP has imposed some technology-based limits for certain sites and, based on reporting so far, these permittees have reported non-detects.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2022/2023 Public Hearing held on January 19, 2023, *PFAS in Residuals*
 - a. The CWC sent a letter with recommendations to the Commissioner on March 21, 2023
 - i. The letter has been posted online at: [NJDEP | Clean Water Council | Public Hearing Archives.](#)
2. It was noted that AEA is working with DEP on the collection and analyzation of PFAS data. It is hoped that DEP will soon see facilities sample within their treatment train and some of their industrial users.
3. Potential topic for future meeting could be to discuss PFAS results and if we should continue to make recommendations to the Commissioner as appropriate.

NEW BUSINESS

- Presentation provided by Thomas Amidon, Manager of Water Resources Modeling from the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) on- Dissolved Oxygen in the Delaware Estuary.
 - Currently evaluating criteria with EPA and surrounding states and have found that Ammonia is the main component. All 67 dischargers have been evaluated and a strategy to target the 9 dischargers that have an impact will be implemented.
 - Thomas can be reached at Thomas.Amidon@drbc.gov if you have any questions.
- 4. The Council discussed potential meeting topics listed below.
 - Update on PFAS data collected and what DEP has learned thus far.
 - Water Quality Management Planning
 - Nitrate discussion based upon court decisions.
 - Update presentation on Arsenic in the upper part of the state as a continuation of a previous presentation provided by the Office of Science.
 - EPA hot topics
 - Permit quality review with EPA on nutrients.
- 5. The Council should send any additional presentation ideas to John Murray and Tony McCracken.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next meetings
 - June 13, 2023 (canceled May meeting)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn from Amy Goldsmith and second by George Bakun at 11:22AM.