

**PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

IN THE MATTER OF: Long-term Precipitation Deficit,
Above-average Temperatures and Water Demands, Depleted
Reservoir Storage, and Severely Depleted Ground Water
Levels and Stream Flows.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, DIVISION OF WATER SUPPLY, WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, TRENTON, NEW JERSEY. In accordance with the Water Supply Management Act (N.J.S.A. 58:1A-1 et seq.) and the Water Supply Allocation Permits Rules (Rules) adopted pursuant thereto at N.J.A.C. 7:19-1 et seq., the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has determined that a potentially critical water supply situation is developing throughout the state.

This determination is based upon a relative lack of precipitation, above-average temperatures and water supply demands, rapidly declining storage in critical water supply reservoirs, severely depleted ground water levels and stream flows, and future scheduled maintenance at key water systems. Based on the above, a Drought Watch was issued for the Northeast Drought Region on August 5, 2010, and later expanded statewide on September 8, 2010. These actions focus on raising public awareness about conditions and to urge all water users to use water sparingly.

In the event that water supply conditions do not improve, the Department may designate a Drought Warning for a portion of or for the entire State. During a Drought Warning, the Department may exercise its non-emergency powers and call for action to be taken by water suppliers to avoid or lessen the impact of a potential water emergency. In accordance with the Rules, the Department must provide notice of and hold a public hearing before ordering any of the Drought Warning requirements provided under N.J.A.C. 7:19-11.6. The Department previously held a public hearing on this matter on August 25, 2010, in Millburn, New Jersey, and stands ready to implement the aforementioned drought warning requirements if it becomes necessary.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a public hearing has been scheduled for September 29, 2010, at 1:30 p.m., in the 1st Floor Main Public Hearing Room at NJDEP headquarters, located at 401 East State Street, Trenton, NJ, to afford the public an opportunity to be heard regarding the developing water supply conditions.

At the scheduled public hearing, the Department will receive input concerning the severity of the situation and its impact on statewide water supplies. The Department and all interested persons shall have an opportunity to present and submit information in support of or in opposition to this matter. Although not required, interested persons may be represented by counsel. In response to this Notice, any person may submit written comments relating to this matter on or before September 29, 2010 to: Mr. Joseph Miri, Hearing Officer, Mail Code 401-03, NJDEP\Water Supply, PO Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420.