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Chris Christie, Governor
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The Cumulative Health Impacts of Toxic Air Pollutants on Sensitive Subpopulations and the General Public



**New Jersey Clean Air Council
Annual Public Hearing
April 13, 2011
9:30 a.m.
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
401 E. State St., Trenton, NJ**

Clean Air Council 2011 Hearing

The Clean Air Council of New Jersey invites you to participate in its annual public hearing on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in the Public Hearing Room of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's offices, located in Trenton.

Based on testimony offered at the hearing, the Council will make recommendations to the NJDEP concerning how to address the cumulative impacts of multiple air pollutants on New Jersey residents.

The Challenge

Currently, air pollution control in New Jersey is governed by the practice of regulating each pollutant individually, with no specific guidelines for considering the cumulative health impacts of multiple chemical and nonchemical stressors. A cumulative health impacts approach would move beyond the pollutant-by-pollutant method of regulation and take into account additive and possibly synergistic adverse health effects of exposure to multiple air pollutants and other environmental stressors, even when no single-pollutant standard may be violated.

The need for a cumulative impacts approach is greatest in urban communities that are burdened with higher levels of pollution and multiple stressors that may increase susceptibility to development of health related disorders. Groups who are particularly

vulnerable to air pollution include children, the elderly, and residents with pre-existing conditions such as asthma, other respiratory disorders and heart disease. Socioeconomic status associated with both increased exposures to pollution and increased vulnerability includes poverty, race and ethnicity.

Understanding, evaluating, and remediating the unequal burden of air pollution and its impacts throughout New Jersey and the rest of the nation are major challenges facing advocates of the environment and environmental justice, regulators, scientists and the regulated community. Several governmental environmental protection departments, including the NJDEP, the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), also are seeking methods to address the issue of cumulative impacts. Engaging this issue will be a continuation of earlier Clean Air Council discussions that resulted in the inclusion of several recommendations regarding cumulative impacts in the Council's 2010 report, "Vision for the Next Decade: Air Quality and Air Pollution Control in New Jersey." The hearing will provide a more extensive discussion and examination of this cutting-edge issue that has significant implications for the health of New Jersey residents. The Council has compiled a set of questions related to cumulative impacts, listed below, that it would like to have addressed at its upcoming hearing.

Issues for the Hearing

❶ How can information on cumulative impacts be used to reduce pollution levels in communities that already are overburdened with toxic substances?

- Can such information be used to prevent the amount of pollution from increasing?
- Can it be used to reduce the existing amount of pollution?
- Can it be used in the permitting process; either in applications for new permits or for permit renewals?
- Are any states currently using cumulative impacts in their permitting process?

❷ Is there a role for the concept of cumulative impacts in policy development?

- Have methods for performing cumulative impacts assessments been used successfully elsewhere to develop policy, rules and procedures?
- What are the types of cumulative impacts "tools," other than assessments, that are currently being used in the United States?
- Have any "cumulative impacts" laws or ordinances been enacted in the United States?

❸ How is the USEPA addressing this issue?

❹ Are there specific methods that can be used to measure the synergistic effects of multiple pollutants or stressors?

- Is there a method of performing risk assessments for the health impacts of multiple pollutants?

- Should DEP's existing air pollution risk assessment and management procedures be changed, and if so, how?
- Should DEP conduct or require risk assessments for existing sources of air pollution, and if so, what types of sources?
- Are there methods, other than risk assessment, that could be used to assess cumulative impacts?

❺ Are there sensitive subpopulations that are particularly vulnerable to the cumulative effects of multiple pollutants?

- If there are vulnerable subpopulations, would they receive added protections?
- If there should be added protections, what form should they take?
- Is there any correlation between race or income and the number of pollution sources, or concentrations of pollution, in communities in New Jersey?

❻ Are there criteria air pollutants or hazardous air pollutants that pose significantly greater risk to community residents than most other pollutants?

- Are there any other types of mobile, area, and stationary sources of air pollution that pose significant risks to communities in New Jersey?
- Are there communities with a set of common characteristics in New Jersey where residents might be at high risk because their neighborhoods could be considered air pollution "hot spots" based either on the concentration of a single pollutant or on the presence of multiple pollutants?

- Are there stressors, such as pollen, that in some manner may pose a significant risk to community residents?

❼ Is there more effective air pollution control technology available or being used elsewhere that is not being used in New Jersey?

- Are there particular communities or pollution sources in New Jersey where the pollution control technology lags behind that being used in other communities or on other sources?
- What are the latest relevant developments in air pollution control technology?

Hearing Procedures

The Clean Air Council has invited guest speakers who will address many of these issues. Interested residents of New Jersey are also invited and encouraged to participate in the hearing.

Those who wish to testify should contact Willa Williams at (609) 292-6722, via e-mail at cac@dep.state.nj.us or by fax at (609) 777-1343 by March 30, 2011. Presenters will be allowed 10 minutes and are asked to bring 25 printed copies of their remarks, including a summary of key information and recommendations.

Written testimony also may be submitted until May 6, 2011 to the following address:

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The Clean Air Council

First convened in 1968, the Clean Air Council was created by the Legislature to make recommendations to the State of New Jersey on matters and programs pertaining to air pollution control.

For more information on the Clean Air Council, visit www.nj.gov/dep/cleanair.

Map to DEP

