

Solving Sewer Overflows: Getting Ahead of the Flow

A Public Hearing sponsored by the New Jersey Clean Water Council

Friday, December 12, 2014, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (or close of testimony, if earlier)

NJ Dept. 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 solutions to help New Jersey address and reduce Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs). Very significant capital expenditures are needed to minimize overflows through upgrades such as reducing excessive inflow and infiltration (I&I) of groundwater and stormwater into our sewer systems. However, by using best practices from around the country, communities can upgrade infrastructure at a lower cost, improve water quality, and achieve multiple community benefits.

SPEAKERS AND ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION (9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)

Bob Martin, NJDEP Commissioner, Keynote Speaker is scheduled to provide an overview of the very active CSO program at NJDEP, concentrating on the NJPDES permits that were recently issued to CSO communities, summarizing funding opportunities for improving our sewer systems, and addressing DEP policy initiatives regarding Integrated Water Planning, I&I reduction, and related issues.

Raymond Ferrara, Ph.D., Kleinfelder's Director of Water/Wastewater, will present a case study of a successful CSO program in Springfield, MA, which demonstrates how Integrated Planning allows for economically achievable compliance for CSO long-term control plan implementation.

Michael Ruppel and Ryan Krause, South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority, will present a successful inflow & infiltration rehabilitation project conducted by the Authority on behalf of its member municipalities where significant flow reductions were achieved.

Q&A / Discussion will begin after the speakers, followed by public testimony at 11:00 a.m.

REQUEST FOR TESTIMONY

The Council seeks input and reaction to the following questions:

- What are the major issues for local and regional utilities to address CSO/SSO/I&I issues?
- How can regional facilities/local entities/state agencies facilitate 'resource sharing' to most efficiently provide funding for system improvements?
- How can local and regional utilities/public/private partnerships best encourage collaborative efforts between local government and other water infrastructure owners to build reliability and resiliency in sewage collection systems? How can local or state agencies support these efforts?
- What technical assistance is needed to support the long-term improvements in sewer infrastructure needed to solve these issues?
- How can we encourage the use of Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development to maximize sewer capacity, minimize overflows, and enhance community revitalization?
- What can local collection systems do and how can communities work together to address I&I?

HOW TO TESTIFY

The Council will provide 5 minutes per oral presentation and strongly encourages the submittal of detailed written comments by email or on paper, to augment your testimony. Written comments will be accepted until December 31, 2014, and can be sent to the NJ Clean Water Council, c/o NJDEP - Division of Water Quality, 401 East State Street, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420; by email to Tracy.Omrod@dep.nj.gov. If submitting electronically, the preferred format is Microsoft Word® 2010 or above. Macintosh formats should not be used.

For more information, please contact Stanley Cach at Stanley.Cach@dep.nj.gov or (609) 292-9977.
To schedule or submit testimony, contact Tracy Omrod at Tracy.Omrod@dep.nj.gov or (609) 292-9977.