



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
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BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

July 20, 2011

Re: Shale Gas Extraction Wastewater

This letter is being written as a follow-up to the EPA Region 2 correspondence dated April 5, 2011, pertaining to publicly owned treatment works (POTW) acceptance of wastewater from shale gas extraction operations.

While New Jersey currently does not have any active shale gas extraction operations, the neighboring states of Pennsylvania and New York do have active well sites, which produce wastewater from the fracturing and production processes. This wastewater must be properly disposed and has the potential to be discharged as a hauled waste to POTWs within New Jersey.

As noted in the EPA letter, POTWs may accept this wastewater provided it complies with all Federal, State, and local requirements. However, the NJDEP has concerns regarding this wastewater because it may have elevated concentrations of contaminants that POTWs are not designed to treat, and therefore may pass through or interfere with the operations of the treatment works.

The Bureau of Pretreatment and Residuals (BPR) is hereby requesting that if your agency is solicited to accept such wastewater, that you notify this Bureau of such a request, irrespective of your decision to accept or deny the discharge.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (609) 633-3823 or at james.murphy@dep.state.nj.us.

Sincerely,

James J. Murphy, Acting Chief
Bureau of Pretreatment and Residuals

c: Virginia Wong, EPA Region II