



## Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

# AEA Announces New Protect NJ Public Water Website



AEA has developed a new website meant to provide information and resources regarding **water and sewer privatization**. The new website is [protectNJpublicwater.com](http://protectNJpublicwater.com).

AEA is also launching a Facebook page, [protectSouthJerseypublicwater](https://www.facebook.com/protectSouthJerseypublicwater), and like the website, it is meant to be a resource regarding privatization. These platforms are becoming available as AEA, several public-sector unions, and other groups are opposing S3637. The bill would create a State-level trust fund that would take dedications of water, sewer and other local government assets. In return, the dedicating government units would earn credits on pension liabilities.

AEA views the bill as a "Trojan Horse" to privatization. **AEA urges its members to speak out against S3637** and urge legislators not to support the bill.

At the same time, Cumberland County UA is entertaining proposals to privatize. An RFQ CCUA issued last month was generated mainly in response to overtures of Bernhard Capital Partners, a Louisiana private equity firm. Bernhard has been courting South Jersey officials in Cumberland County, Millville and possibly other locations, attempting to market its concession approach to privatizing. CCUA commissioners are divided about the Bernhard proposal. Steve Errickson, CCUA executive director, last week announced his resignation, saying the incursion of outside forces has harmed his ability to do his job.



# Register to Participate in Environmental Justice Law Stakeholder Meeting This Thursday, June 24

The NJDEP is holding the last in a series of stakeholder meetings as it prepares to draft rules to implement the environmental justice law.

Anyone may attend the **virtual meeting Thursday, June 24 at 6 p.m.**

To register email, [ejrulemaking@dep.nj.gov](mailto:ejrulemaking@dep.nj.gov).

Deputy Commissioner Olivia Glenn told the Clean Water Council last week that the new draft rules are expected in early 2022. She noted that on the NJDEP EJ law page, there is a tool with GIS mapping to help users can identify “blocks” designated as burdened communities.

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## [AEA Seeking Presentation Proposals for Upcoming Annual Meeting & Conference](#)

AEA is seeking presentation proposals for its upcoming **Annual Meeting & Conference**.

The conference is set for **Nov. 16 & 17, 2021 at Caesars Atlantic City**.

Plans are being made for a return to our in-person annual meeting & conference, to be held at Caesars in Atlantic City. The Onward & Upward theme continues as we conclude the celebration of our 50th anniversary.

Registration information will be posted sometime in August.

We are **seeking proposals for presentations** to be made at the conference. Full details and submission forms are below:

**Submission Deadline: August 6, 2021**

[A Call for Presentations Details](#)

[Presentation Proposal Submission Form](#)

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## Join AEA's Weekly Check-In Zoom Meetings

AEA continues to host weekly check-in meetings on Zoom. These meetings afford participants an opportunity to touch base with others in the field, trade ideas, and more. The agenda changes each week, allowing for timely topics relevant to the news of the day. To participate, email Karen at [karen@aeanj.org](mailto:karen@aeanj.org) for a link to the Zoom meeting.

## Solvay Petitions for PFAS Surface Water Quality Standards

Solvay Specialty Polymers USA LLC submitted a petition for rulemaking to the NJDEP in April. Solvay requested the NJDEP introduce PFAS soil remediation standards and that the department develop surface water quality standards for PFAS. NJDEP says the full petition is on the Notice of Rulemaking Petitions page.



## NJDEP Proposes new Greenhouse Gas Monitoring and Reporting Rule

The NJDEP is proposing a **new Greenhouse Gas Monitoring and Reporting rule** that amends N.J.A.C. 7:27-21.2, 21.3, and 21.5 and 7:27A-3.2, 3.5, and 3.10.

According to the notice, “this proposed rulemaking is part of a comprehensive strategy.... [It] has three major components to require sources to monitor and report their emissions of methane and halogenated gases.

First, facilities that emit 100 tons or greater per year of methane will be required to report their methane emissions as part of the Emission Statement program, N.J.A.C. 7:27-21.

Second, facilities that use 50 pounds or more of high global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants in refrigeration systems will be required to register and report their equipment and use of refrigerants.

Third, natural gas public utilities with local distribution lines in the State will be required to report information regarding their lines, advanced leak detection, and blowdown events.”

The proposal was scheduled to be published in the New Jersey Register Monday. To read the

proposal:<https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/proposals/20210621a.pdf>. A **public hearing** concerning the proposal will be conducted virtually on **Thursday, July 22, 2021**, at 1 p.m.

Written comments are due by August 20, 2021.

## NJBPU Plans Stakeholder Meeting On One Call Rules



The NJ Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) plans a virtual stakeholder meeting June 28 from 10 a.m. to noon “to solicit input regarding the draft proposed re-adoption with substantial changes of rules at N.J.A.C. 14:2, et seq., which governs the **One Call Damage Prevention System**. The **rules are set to expire on February 11, 2022.**” AEA, AWWA-NJ and the National Association of Water Companies together challenged the BPU interpretation of the One Call statute. A court ordered the BPU to review its interpretation of the rule. It is not clear that the current proposal from BPU will address the objections raised by AEA and the other two organizations. According to the NJBPU announcement, the stakeholder meeting will be to discuss the proposed amendments and provide opportunity to offer recommendations to assist in updating the One Call rules effectively and fairly for all stakeholders.

To join the meeting:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jgXsvjJ7RzWuuHZNCMwQhQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jgXsvjJ7RzWuuHZNCMwQhQ).

The **deadline** for comments on this matter is 5 p.m. on **July 27, 2021**.

Comments may be submitted here: <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us> and also may be submitted electronically to [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov) in PDF or Word format with the specific docket number referenced in the subject line.

## Review EO246 and A5820 for Impact on Shutoffs and Collecting Unpaid Bills

The Governor issued EO246, which lifted COVID restrictions.

The EO **ended the shutoff moratorium** but introduced a **grace period** to help water customers address arrearages. The grace period will also provide time for the State to implement assistance available programs funded by the American Rescue Plan.

The Governor also signed a bill (A5820) that would extend certain powers he has relating to COVID, including shutoffs.

For more on the new

law: <https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/coronavirus/2021/06/03/nj-lawmakers-send-phil-murphy-bill-end-covid-health-emergency/7526087002/>

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## Visit AEA's Career Center

Job listings for the public water / wastewater industry. AEA members may submit listings for free. [Check our job listings now.](#)

## NEWS LINKS

AEA gathers news relevant to our industry and archives it in one convenient place for you. [Go there now.](#)

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