



Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

DEP Extends Comment Period by 30 Days for Category One Rulemaking

After hearing from many groups, including AEA, the DEP agreed to extend the comment period for the Category 1 Designation proposal by 30 days to June 3.

The proposal, published in the beginning of March, would add more than 700 miles of streams, tributaries and rivers to the Category 1 anti-degradation listing.

Some AEA members, including Raritan Township MUA, Sussex County MUA, have concerns about how these designation proposals will impact their ability to provide needed sewer treatment capacity.

AEA wrote to Commissioner Catherine McCabe, telling her that we support the goal of protecting NJ waters and expanding the C1 listings overall. But AEA expressed concerns about the transparency of the Category 1 Designation proposal process, the adoption schedule, the quality and completeness of the data backing it, and AEA members' ability to assess the proposal's implications. AEA told the Commissioner that we do not believe the DEP has not been as forthcoming as it could be with certain background documentation and data AEA members need to assess the impact of the Category 1 Designation proposal, including mapping that shows the tributaries being affected by the upgrade, in addition to the segment named.

AEA takes the position that the DEP has not given due consideration to how the Category 1 Designation proposal will affect redevelopment, CSO remediation, affordable housing and other factors the EO63 news release calls "distributed impacts."

AEA still hopes that DEP will grant requests from AEA and UTCA for a second public hearing.

AEA also wrote to Governor Murphy to express our concern that the DEP is not managing the C1 process to fully align with regulatory principles as outlined in an April 2 Executive Order (No. 63).

If you have concerns or questions that need to be raised on the C1 designation

proposal, please let AEA know.

GOVERNOR SIGNS LAW PROVIDING INFORMATION ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

Governor Phil Murphy signed S3129 into law, last week. Under this new legislation, the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development will create a list of labor organizations that represent workers who engage in public work projects. This list will include data such as hourly rates, required fringe benefit rates, and areas where labor organizations represent workers. Employers will be able to see prevailing wages and other related data.

The list will be available on the Department of Labor and Workforce Development's website.

"Municipalities planning public works projects should have access to information about the wages and benefit levels received by employees who are represented by organized labor," Murphy said in a written release.

With this law, New Jersey becomes the only state with a compiled list of all labor organizations that represent workers on public contracts.

Water, Safety, & IT Committee Updates

The Water Committee recently did a conference call with an attorney representing Atlantic City MUA and Ridgewood Water in separate lawsuits. These systems are seeking to recover money to help pay for the costly process of treating for PFOA/PFOS.

The new Safety Committee is working on setting up its kick-off meeting. If you are interested, let us know - and be sure to check out the [safety tips page on our website](#), courtesy of Janette Kessler of Atlantic County UA.

The IT Committee is planning to do an IT workshop in September.

Are you interested in our HR Committee? Or our Legislative Committee? Or any others we have mentioned? Please contact Karen if so.

News Links

We gather industry news from throughout the state so you don't have to! Explore the following headlines and more [at this news link](#)

- "We're moving as quickly as we can." EPA announces plan to address PFAS water contamination
- Bacteria persists in Navesink River, rain and overdevelopment to blame
- Contaminants in Newark-supplied water found in Nutley, Belleville, Bloomfield
- South Jersey sewage plant makes energy from wind, solar - and bacon grease
- It might take 14 years to replace lead pipes in Bergen, Hudson counties. That's not fast enough, towns say

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