

Notice of an Informal Meeting between the Department and Stakeholders on the Proposed Amendments to Coastal Permit Program rules, N.J.A.C. 7:7, Coastal Zone Management rules N.J.A.C. 7:7E and Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules N.J.A.C. 7:13

Pursuant to Governor Christie's Executive Orders 1, 2 and 3 (January 20, 2010), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (the Department) is holding an informal meeting to allow any interested stakeholders or members of the public to discuss the Department's proposed amendments to the Coastal Permit Program rules, N.J.A.C. 7:7, Coastal Zone Management rules, N.J.A.C. 7:7E and Flood Hazard Area rules, N.J.A.C. 7:13 relating to the development of wind and solar energy facilities. A previous stakeholder meeting was held on December 11, 2008 to gather information and concerns about natural resource impacts that could result from the development of terrestrial wind turbines in New Jersey's coastal zone and to present an overview of the regulatory approach under consideration, particularly the tiered approach to regulation.

The stakeholder meeting will be held on the following date and time:

March 8, 2010 - 9:00 am
Department of Environmental Protection Building
Public Hearing Room - 1st Floor
401 East State Street, Trenton, NJ

At this meeting, the Department will be discussing and inviting comment on the rule proposal in consideration of the topics outlined in the Governor's Executive Orders 1, 2 and 3. Among the topics to be discussed are:

1. Economic Analysis:
 - a. what is the effect of the proposal on New Jersey's economy?
 - b. do the burdens on business and workers outweigh the intended benefits?
 - c. the cost/benefit analysis performed by the Department as part of the proposal process, as well as scientific and economic research available from other jurisdictions relevant to this proposal;
2. Federal Standards Comparison:
 - a. do the proposed rules exceed Federal standards and if so, why?
3. Process Improvement Evaluation:
 - a. how the proposal addresses processing time, extent of required submissions, coordination with other programs and agency requirements;
 - b. the public process used for this proposal as it relates to advance notice of rulemaking;
 - c. the effect of the proposal on permits and applications for permits;
 - d. the applicability of "waiver" provisions to this proposal;
4. Compliance and Enforcement Evaluation:
 - a. the performance-based nature of the proposed rules.

People who have already provided comments on the rule proposal should not resubmit their prior comments as they are already part of the record for this rulemaking. This is an informal meeting and not a public hearing. No transcription will be made. Additional formal written comments may be submitted by March 15, 2010. Please see the Department's website at http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/2010_ext.html for information on the comment period extension and how to submit additional comments on this rulemaking.