Water Infrastructure

Key Environmental Issues,
USEPA Region 2 Conference

Michele N. Siekerka, Esq.
Deputy Commissioner,
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
State Lead for Environmental Infrastructure Recovery Support Function for Commissioner Martin
Infrastructure Impacts

- $2.6 Billion in estimated need
- FEMA project worksheets over $161M
- Improvements at a single WWTP >$975M
Flooding at PVSC

Temporary Bypass Pumping of a Sewer Main
Resiliency Guidance

- Development of enhanced guidance for water and wastewater facilities
  - Auxiliary Power
  - Emergency Preparedness & Response
  - Flood Protection
  - Asset Management

http://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/
Comprehensive Approaches to Recovery & Resiliency

- Mapping of critical infrastructure
- Regional Approach to Permit Priorities
- Assess and prioritize by region (integrated reports, monitoring data, etc.)
- Integrate various permitting programs to maximize results
- Address energy resiliency
- Learn from our neighbors (NY, PA and EPA)
Combined Sewer Overflow Initiative

- Holistic view of the sewer shed for point and non point sources
- Long Term Control Plans seeking iterative improvement
- Green Infrastructure
- Outreach, coordination and support
Stormwater Management

- Municipal Stormwater Permitting Overhaul
- Green Infrastructure Program
- Best Management Practices
Asset Management

• Permit requirements that seek iterative progress
• Encourage full participation
• Enhanced priority status and discounted borrowing rates for submission of acceptable Asset Management Plans when providing funding
Funding

- Sandy SRF; Disaster Relief Appropriations Act (DRAA) approved by Congress to provide additional funding to the State SRF
  - Financial assistance to communities impacted by Superstorm Sandy
  - To reduce flood damage risk and vulnerability or to enhance resiliency to rapid hydrologic change or a natural disaster
  - $191M Clean Water, $38M Drinking Water
- Base SRF
  - Principal forgiveness
- 20% State match (CDBG)
- Sandy SAIL Program
- Set asides for Asset Mgmt
Increased Energy Resiliency for Infrastructure

- Encouraging enhanced energy resilience for critical assets
- $25M in HMGP financing to encourage resiliency
- CDBG Energy Resiliency Bank

Solar Array at NJ American Canoe Brook Plant
Drinking Water

- Electronic Access to 500,000 well records
- Emergency Response
- Regional Planning
Water Quality Monitoring

- Coastal Monitoring
- Freshwater and Biological Monitoring
- Ambient lake monitoring
Moving Forward

- Additional regulatory mechanisms being evaluated
- Communication and Outreach
  - One Size Does Not Fit All!
- Incentivized Funding
- Breaking the business as usual attitude
"...As part of its long-term recovery strategy, the State has also been committed to building back better and stronger, including researching resilient infrastructure projects, identifying mitigation opportunities to prevent future damage, and utilizing current construction techniques and materials that will better withstand future weather events, among other things..."

Governor’s Vision for Recovery and Rebuilding