

Environmental Policy and Advocacy Highlights
Dec 2018

	Issue and source	Who you can contact
1	The Burlington County Freeholder Board approved road closure permits allowing construction of the Southern Reliability Link pipeline, which is currently in litigation. Several environmental groups including the NJ Sierra Club and Pinelands Preservation Alliance have requested the BPU and Pinelands Commission to suspend approvals pending outcome of the litigation, and have called on Gov. Murphy to institute a statewide moratorium on new pipeline infrastructure (source: Burlington County Times)	<p>Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders (609-265-5020; freeholders@co.burlington.nj.us)</p> <p>Governor Phil Murphy (609-292-6000, http://www.state.nj.us/governor/contact/)</p> <p>NJ Board of Public Utilities (http://www.bpu.state.nj.us/bpu/about/contact/)</p> <p>NJ Pinelands Commission (609-894-7300, https://www.nj.gov/pinelands/)</p>
2	The NJ DEP has proposed rules for rejoining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). The proposed rules set a cap of 18 million tons/yr of CO2 in 2020, higher than the 12-13 million tons/yr cap advocated by environmental groups including the Natural Resources Defense Council. The proposed rules also address only existing power plants, not new plants currently proposed for the Pinelands, Highlands, and Meadowlands (source: NJspotlight.com)	<p>https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/comments/ Rulemaking ID: "DEP Dkt. No. 05-18-11, CO2 Budget Trading Program Rules" ***Comments due February 15, 2019***</p> <p>(A public hearing concerning this notice of proposal will be held on Friday, January 25, 2019, at 9:00 A.M. at: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Hearing Room, 1st Floor, 401 East State Street, Trenton)</p>
3	The US EPA has proposed a roll back of 2013 federal rules, easing regulations requiring carbon capture technology on newly constructed coal-fired power plants. The new rules would allow maximum CO2 emissions of 1,900 pounds/kWh, as compared to 1,400 pounds/kWh under the prior rule (source: New York Times)	<p>https://www.regulations.gov Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0495-11936 ***Comments due February 19, 2019***</p>
4	A petition with more than 100,000 signatures has been delivered to Gov. Murphy, who currently serves as chair of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), calling for a complete ban on fracking in the river basin. The current ban being considered by the DRBC allows fracking waste to be dumped in the river basin, and is therefore considered a "partial ban." Also a resolution SCR150 has been introduced in the NJ Senate calling for a complete ban (source: NJ.com)	<p>Governor Phil Murphy (609-292-6000, http://www.state.nj.us/governor/contact/)</p> <p>Senator James Beach, LD-6 (856-429-1572, http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/BIO.asp?Leg=310)</p> <p>Senator Troy Singleton, LD-7 (856-234-2790, www.senatorsingleton.com/contact)</p> <p>Senator Dawn Marie Addiego, LD-8 (609-654-1498, http://addiego.senatenj.com/contact.php)</p>
5	A group of incoming House Congressional members are calling for institution of a Select Committee to push for a "Green New Deal" policy proposal focused on accelerating the transition to renewable energy, decreasing GHG emissions and creating green jobs and infrastructure (source: The Hill, Washington Post)	<p>NJ-3 Congressperson Andy Kim (https://andykimforcongress.com/contact/)</p>
6	The US EPA has proposed a roll back of federal rules on mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants. The new proposed rule dramatically changes the analysis of	<p>https://www.regulations.gov Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0794 ***Not yet open for public comment***</p>

	cost-benefit by accounting for only certain health effects. The new rule estimates the health benefits at \$4-6 million/year, as compared to estimates of \$80 billion/year under the previous formula. If imposed, the new rule could set a precedent for cost-benefit analysis in future environmental regulations (source: New York Times)	
7	The US EPA has proposed to roll back key clean water protections mandated by the Waters of the United States rule. The proposal seeks to remove federal pollution controls from wetlands and smaller streams that don't immediately drain into larger waterways. The previous rule was perceived as too restrictive for farmers, ranchers and other stakeholders. The new rule could impact fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands and drinking water sources including those in and around the Delaware valley (source: Philly.com, Burlington County times)	https://www.regulations.gov Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0149 ***Not yet open for public comment***
	A NJ Senate bill (S3207/A4821) would require closer monitoring of greenhouse gases, to help achieve the states goal of reducing climate change emissions 80% below 2006 levels by 2050. (source: NJ Spotlight) UPDATE: The bill has cleared the Environment and Energy Committee and is currently with the Budget and Appropriations Committee (source: NJ Spotlight)	Senator James Beach, LD-6 (856-429-1572, http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/BIO.asp?Leg=310) Senator Troy Singleton, LD-7 (856-234-2790, www.senatorsingleton.com/contact) Senator Dawn Marie Addiego, LD-8 (609-654-1498, http://addiego.senatenj.com/contact.php)
2	The NJ Senate has advanced a bill (S678/A1329) that would ban fracking in New Jersey. The bill is now with the Assembly. If passed, New Jersey would become the second state to impose a ban, and the first in the Delaware River Basin. Similar bills were voted by former Gov. Christie. (source: Press of Atlantic City)	LD-6 Assemblypersons Louis Greenwald and Pamela Lampitt (856-435-1247) LD-7 Assemblypersons Herb Conaway (856-461-3997) and Carol Murphy (856-735-5334) LD-8 Assemblymen Joe Howarth and Ryan Peters (609-654-1498)
3	The NJ Senate has advanced a bill (S2776/A4330) that is the most comprehensive plan in the country to ban single-use plastic bags, straws and polystyrene. (source: NJ LCV, Gloucester City News, northjersey.com)	Senator James Beach, LD-6 (856-429-1572, http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/BIO.asp?Leg=310) Senator Troy Singleton, LD-7 (856-234-2790, www.senatorsingleton.com/contact) Senator Dawn Marie Addiego, LD-8 (609-654-1498, http://addiego.senatenj.com/contact.php)
	A bill (A4700/S3233) that would help decrease food waste and increase access to food in urban areas has passed the NJ Assembly and is now with the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens committee (source: northjersey.com)	Senator James Beach, LD-6 (856-429-1572, http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/BIO.asp?Leg=310) Senator Troy Singleton, LD-7 (856-234-2790, www.senatorsingleton.com/contact) Senator Dawn Marie Addiego, LD-8 (609-654-1498, http://addiego.senatenj.com/contact.php)
	An assembly bill (A4634) that would implement a comprehensive plan to promote plug-in electric vehicles by building up to 1,300 charging stations and providing up to	LD-6 Assemblypersons Louis Greenwald and Pamela Lampitt (856-435-1247)

	\$300 million has rebates has stalled, due to concerns of ratepayer costs. NJ is lagging behind in its commitment to transition to zero-emission cars, with only 0.4% of a targeted 4.5% of new car sales being plug-in vehicles (source: NJ spotlight)	LD-7 Assemblypersons Herb Conaway (856-461-3997) and Carol Murphy (856-735-5334) LD-8 Assemblymen Joe Howarth and Ryan Peters (609-654-1498)
12	A bill sponsored by Senator Troy Singleton (S1486/A909) that would ban styrofoam food containers at public schools and institutions UPDATE: Bill has passed the Senate, is now in the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee (source: Senator Singleton's website; www.njleg.state.nj.us)	LD-6 Assemblypersons Louis Greenwald and Pamela Lampitt (856-435-1247) LD-7 Assemblypersons Herb Conaway (856-461-3997) and Carol Murphy (856-735-5334) LD-8 Assemblymen Joe Howarth and Ryan Peters (609-654-1498)
13	A NJ Senate bill (S1073) would provide for stormwater utilities and give municipalities the ability to impose fees on impervious surfaces (eg, parking lots), in order to fix \$15B in aging stormwater infrastructure. (source: NJ Spotlight)	LD-6 Assemblypersons Louis Greenwald and Pamela Lampitt (856-435-1247) LD-7 Assemblypersons Herb Conaway (856-461-3997) and Carol Murphy (856-735-5334) LD-8 Assemblymen Joe Howarth and Ryan Peters (609-654-1498)
16	A NJ Senate bill (S3110) would allocate \$160 million from the Exxon settlement for various environmental projects, including Cape May, the Atlantic White Cedar watershed, and the Hudson-Raritan Estuary. (source: NJ Spotlight)	Senator James Beach, LD-6 (856-429-1572, http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/BIO.asp?Leg=310) Senator Troy Singleton, LD-7 (856-234-2790, www.senatorsingleton.com/contact) Senator Dawn Marie Addiego, LD-8 (609-654-1498, http://addiego.senatenj.com/contact.php)
	NJ DEP has indicated intent to join the Transportation and Climate Initiative, a regional cap-and-trade program to address carbon emissions from transportation fuels. Transportation accounts for about 40% of NJ's GHG emissions (source: NJ spotlight)	Governor Phil Murphy (609-292-6000, http://www.state.nj.us/governor/contact/)
7	The NJ Sierra Club and the Pinelands Preservation Alliance are urging Gov. Murphy to make changes to the Pinelands Commission, including nominations to replace existing Commissioners and removing Sean Earlen as the Chairperson. (source: Burlington County Times)	Governor Phil Murphy (609-292-6000, http://www.state.nj.us/governor/contact/)
10	Delegates (including the Unites States) at the 24th UN Climate Change Conference (COP24) held in Katowice, Poland December 2-14 reached an agreement on a detailed set of uniform rules needed to implement the Paris climate agreement (source: New York Times)	President Donald Trump (https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/)
	The US National Marine Fisheries Service has issued authorizations permitting companies conducting seismic surveys for Atlantic oil and gas drilling to harm wildlife, if it is unintentional. The decision has led environmental groups (including Sierra Club and The National Resources Defense Council) as well as 9 states attorneys general including New Jersey to sue the Federal	

	government to halt the testing (source: Washington Post, NJ.com, NJbiz.com)	
	NJ Attorney General Gurbir Grewal has launched an “environmental justice initiative” targeting polluters in minority and lower income communities, including an initial 8 lawsuits targeting sites in Camden, Palmyra, and Pennsauken (source: Courier-Post)	