



May 24, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper 215-369-1188 x102
Fred Stine, Citizen Action Coordinator, Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Cell 856-816-8021, Office 215-369-1188x113
John Miller, Engineer, Princeton Hydro
Cell 609-203-8935, Office 908-237-5660

**New Jersey Stormwater Rules Moving in Wrong Direction
Red Tape Review Off-base says New Report**

Hamilton Township, Mercer County, NJ. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network released a new study that demonstrates lax implementation of NJ stormwater regulations by municipal officials. According to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's study, entitled New Jersey Stormwater Management Implementation, New Jersey's Stormwater Rules are not being properly implemented by local officials nor are they being adequately administered by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

"According to our report," says Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper "failure to properly implement the regulations by the municipalities, and poor oversight by the State DEP, is putting New Jersey communities at risk of increased flooding, erosion and degrading community environments."

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network engaged four stormwater experts to review an array of projects approved in Hamilton Township, Mercer County. Each project was examined for completeness, accuracy and whether the stormwater system fulfilled the requirements and intent of New Jersey's Stormwater Management Rules.

Delaware Riverkeeper Network
300 Pond Street, Second Floor
Bristol, PA 19007
tel: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
drkn@delawariverkeeper.org
www.delawariverkeeper.org

“The results of this review are sobering” said Delaware Riverkeeper van Rossum. “Governor Christie’s Red Tape Committee has suggested the NJ stormwater rules are a hindrance to the state’s economy and should be relaxed, this report shows that NJ communities are being harmed by the failure of municipalities to properly implement these laws. So rather than relaxing them, we should instead be properly implementing and enforcing them” van Rossum states.

“Our review shows that Hamilton Township earned a solid ‘F’ when it comes to complying with the state law” says John Miller with Princeton Hydro, lead consultant on the project. “And we believe Hamilton is representative of many of the municipalities across the state.”

Urges van Rossum, “considering the track record we exposed in Hamilton Township, the State should not expand the 27 town pilot study.” The State’s Pilot Study gives greater responsibilities for stormwater management to the municipalities. Further van Rossum says: “a relaxation of the state’s stormwater rules as recommended by the Red Tape committee, will lead to greater flooding, reduced public safety, and harm to our communities and businesses. Hamilton Township and many other municipalities are not up to the task of taking on sole responsibility of the stormwater management – State oversight is a must to ensure proper and full implementation.”

According to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, flooding costs communities in flood damaged homes and infrastructure that must be rebuilt at community and state expense, emergency services, lost business, erosion, polluted waterways, increased work required of public works crews and police departments. “These problems will continue to worsen as more rooftops, roadways and parking lots get built, unless we make sure it happens properly” says Miller.

The report can be found at:

http://delawariverkeeper.org/resources/Reports/Hamilton_Twp_NJ_SWM_Implementation_Report.pdf

-- end --