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## **Rendell Deceives New Jersey Over Deepening**

Philadelphia, PA. Documents released by environmental organizations on Sunday reveal what the organizations call "Rendell's deception of New Jersey over the Delaware River Deepening project."

According to Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, "it is now overwhelmingly apparent that Pennsylvania has no intention of honoring the agreement it made with New Jersey regarding the Delaware River deepening. This was clearly an intentional deception designed to benefit Pennsylvania politicians at the expense of New Jersey residents and the health of our region's environment."

In an agreement reached between Governors Rendell and Corzine in May 2007 New Jersey would agree to the transfer control of the Delaware deepening proposal from the Delaware River Port Authority to the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority with the express agreement that a committee be created to identify by unanimous agreement the sites for disposal of project dredge spoils; that Pennsylvania will accept all of the project spoils except to the extent New Jersey seeks spoils for specific port projects; and there shall be requested and supported an updated Environmental Impact Statement for the project.

Contrary to this agreement, in a Letter dated February 8, 2008 to the Army Corps of Engineers the PRPA states "PRPA intends the MCD [main channel deepening] project to proceed as set forth in the decision documents, including the Environmental Impact Statement, its supplements and records of decision. It is the unambiguous position of the PRPA that nothing in the understanding between the governors will affect the MCD project." The document further states "to the extent the governors had an understanding about disposition of dredge material ... it has no bearing on the MCD project."

Associated documents provided to the Delaware Riverkeeper, Maya van Rossum, as the result of a freedom of information act request, document that all spoils are intended to go to existing disposal sites in New Jersey and Delaware. According to van Rossum, careful review of the documents show that "87% of the spoils from the deepening project are to go to New Jersey communities with 0 spoils, no spoils, going to PA at all. Governor Rendell abused his authority at the DRPA, and then deceived and manipulated NJ, into handing over control of a project New Jersey had long opposed because of its concerns about the threat the project poses to New Jersey's health, safety and environment. This is an abuse of power of the most insidious kind."

An April 22, 2008 Army Corps memorandum titled Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project, DE, NJ and PA, Environmental Compliance further states "it is concluded that current circumstances do not warrant re-study, and that NEPA compliance requirements have been adequately met."

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