



Town Hall Meetings on New Jersey's Water Infrastructure

Take a minute to think about the ways you use water... Make a cup of coffee? Hydrate yourself? Take a shower? Go for a swim or boat ride? Relax by just watching gentle waves lapping the shore? Besides usage, think about street and basement flooding you often hear about...

As noted in the New Jersey American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 2007 Report Card for the State's Infrastructure and the recent national ASCE 2009 Report Card, all of our infrastructure systems are in critical need of repairs. Those systems are reaching their design life in terms of both system integrity and capacity. The funding gap for water system projects exceeds \$60 million each year. The estimates to repair High hazard and Significant hazard dams in the state is over \$300 million. While federal funding has declined 51% to \$26.7 million, applications to the NJ State Revolving Fund for Clean Water have risen 29%. Eliminating combined sewage in NJ from reaching our waterways can cost over \$6 Billion.

Several national organizations have sponsored the development of a documentary entitled *Liquid Assets* that is being broadcasted by public television channels nationwide. Our NJ Town Hall meetings will highlight elements of this documentary, with NJ-specific discussions among the lawmakers, municipal and business leaders and general public. The entities responsible for infrastructure renewal face challenges in raising funds and communicating the need for improvements to maintain public health and safety, to provide safe, clean water to your community and to prevent flooding. Only by working together can we hope to improve the public understanding of the current state of water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure assets. We invite you to participate and discuss your questions and concerns at one of three free meetings, and also request you to extend the invitation to fellow citizens and municipal officials from your area.

Meetings are planned in March and April in three regions for your convenience. The venues and dates are listed below:

North NJ: March 4, 2009 in Atrium Hall at New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark
Central NJ: March 17, 2009 in CAIT Auditorium at Rutgers University, Piscataway
South NJ: April 8, 2009 in Atrium and Auditorium at Rowan University, Glassboro

Please visit our website (<http://sections.asce.org/newjersey/liquid-assets.html>) for information on free registration, free parking and directions. Please register at least one week prior to the meeting that you wish to participate in.

Complimentary breakfast will begin at 8 am, followed by a short documentary. The panel discussion and questions with the audience will be held from 8:50 am to 11:30 am. All meetings are co-sponsored by the New Jersey Institute of Technology and supported by the New Jersey sections of the American Water Works Association and Water Environment Federation.