



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

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Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner

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**Statement of
Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**

April 2, 2002

On March 18, 2002, the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey reversed the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) "Septic Rule," which was originally proposed on July 3, 2000 under the Whitman administration. The DEP has requested that the court grant a temporary stay of this ruling. The requested stay would allow DEP to address procedural errors in promulgating the rule. A temporary stay will ensure that the existing safeguard remains in place while we consider broader reforms that will better promote Governor McGreevey's smart growth agenda.

Until DEP develops a better approach to wastewater management, a temporary stay of the court's decision is needed to avoid adverse impacts on our water resources caused by development not regulated by other water protection requirements. These impacts include: an increase in water consumption during this drought period; an overall increase in long-term water use; increased non-point source pollution; reduced stream base flows; disruption of the protective riparian buffers; increased flooding and scouring based on stream hydrology; and, damages to natural resources dependent on water resources.

As DEP works to improve this important water protection measure, we encourage all members of the public to give us input and guidance on how we can work together to protect New Jersey's precious and limited water resources.

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