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PUBLIC NOTICE

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
LAND USE MANAGEMENT
WATER SUPPLY ADMINISTRATION**

36 N.J.R. 889(b)

SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON POSSIBLE REGULATORY STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE OCCURRENCE OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS IN DRINKING WATER

Take notice that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is seeking comment on several possible regulatory strategies for controlling and reducing the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in New Jersey's drinking water.

The results of a number of studies conducted in New Jersey revealed that very low levels of currently unregulated semi-volatile and non-volatile organic contaminants are present in groundwater, surface water and finished drinking water. The bulk of these contaminants are not part of the suite of those routinely analyzed for as part of the Safe Drinking Water program, and the individual levels of any one contaminant is low and unlikely to be of human health concern. Human health information is lacking for many of the contaminants, so it is difficult to assess whether they pose a threat to human health either on an individual basis or as contaminant mixtures. Given the uncertainty, the Department is considering several options to address the occurrence of these contaminants in the State's drinking water. The options seek to address the question of what, in the absence of information on human health information on these contaminants, its response should be to the new information.

A discussion paper is available on the Department's website at www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply. The discussion paper details the current methodology for regulating contaminants in drinking water and presents the strategies being considered. Background materials delineating the scientific studies and approaches used by other states and the European Union are available on the web through links in the discussion paper.

The strategies under consideration on which the Department is seeking comment are:

1. Chemical-specific regulation of drinking water contaminants;

2. Intensive site remediation investigation of unregulated organic contaminant occurrence in groundwater;
3. Regulation of classes of organic chemicals, by health end-point;
4. Regulation of classes of organic chemicals, by chemical property; and
5. Installation of treatment technology to reduce levels of organic contaminants.

Questions regarding the discussion paper and background information should be directed to:

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401 East State Street
PO Box 409
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0402
(609) 984-6070
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Written comments regarding the above-listed strategies may be submitted until April 2, 2004 to:

Beth Smollon Margeson
Attn: DEP Docket No. 01-04-01
Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Legal Affairs
401 East State Street
PO Box 402
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0402

The Department recommends, but does not require, that comments be submitted on diskette as well as on paper. Please note that the Department can accept or use comments submitted in MacIntosh format only if submitted in MS-WORD format readable by Windows systems.