

NJDEP Green Infrastructure Updates

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is currently working on several initiatives related to green infrastructure (GI), including: creating a new GI chapter for the New Jersey Stormwater BMP Manual, creating a guidance document for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) permittees when evaluating GI as an alternative for long term control plans (LTCP), and potential amendments to the Stormwater Management rules (N.J.A.C. 7:8) to include GI and improved financing.

Green Infrastructure NJ Stormwater BMP Manual Update

The Department held a stakeholder meeting to discuss a draft version of a new GI Chapter of the New Jersey Stormwater BMP Manual on June 22, 2016. The purpose of the Stormwater BMP Manual is to provide guidance to address the standards contained in the Stormwater Management rule and to provide examples of ways to meet those standards. The draft chapter is currently undergoing revisions as a result of the comments received at the stakeholder meeting. **Comments will be accepted on the draft chapter, once it is posted to the Department's stormwater website at http://www.njstormwater.org/bmp_man_comments.htm, in the near future.**

Green Infrastructure Guidance Document for CSO Permittees Update

The Department held two stakeholder meetings to discuss a draft version of a new GI guidance document for CSO permittees on February 16 and 22, 2017. The new guidance document is being developed for the use of CSO permittees when evaluating GI as an alternative for their LTCP. **The Department is currently compiling the comments received, and will soon begin revising/editing the draft guidance document. The Department anticipates that the document will be finalized in April.**

Possible N.J.A.C. 7:8 Rule Amendment Update

The Department is considering several possible amendments to the Stormwater Management rules (N.J.A.C. 7:8) that would replace the existing requirement to incorporate nonstructural strategies to the maximum extent feasible with a requirement to use GI, add a GI volume reduction standard, make several changes to aid CSO communities in meeting their obligation to reduce or eliminate CSOs, and clarify/correct minor implementation issues.

The potential areas of amendment were discussed at three stakeholder meetings, held on November 29 and 30, 2016. **The invitation, agenda, presentation, and attendance list from those stakeholder meetings are available at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/workgroups/past.html>. The Department is currently evaluating the comments received from stakeholders and is considering possible next steps; including development of rule language and publication of a draft proposal in the New Jersey Register.**

Financing for Green Infrastructure

The DEP has proposed, under the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program Intended Use Plan to provide improved financing (principal forgiveness loans) for CSO abatement projects utilizing green practices. Projects will receive 50% principal forgiveness, **within the limits of available monies**, 25% DEP interest free, and 25% NJEIT market rate financing. For more information on financing, please see <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/cwpl.htm>.

Under the 319(h) grant program, the Department also provides Water Quality Restoration Grants to reduce water quality impairment through implementation of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control projects, which include GI. The NPS grant program is prioritizing GI projects designed to reduce stormwater runoff within drainage areas hydraulically connected to systems with CSOs. More on the NPS grant program can be found at: http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/319_grant_program.htm. This year's Request for Proposals is expected soon.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Gabriel Mahon from the Stormwater Management Unit of the Department at gabriel.mahon@dep.nj.gov or (609) 633-7021.