



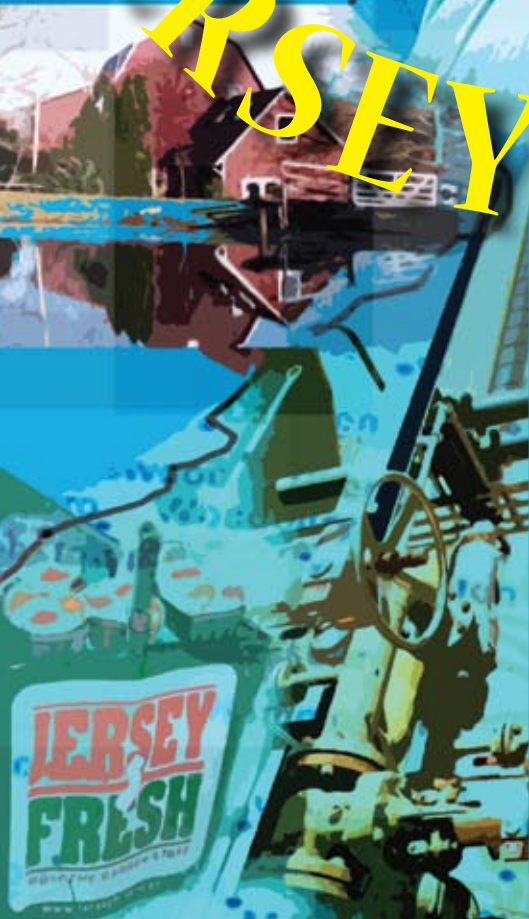
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# NEW JERSEY



## Corzine Publishes Draft Energy Master Plan

**N**ew Jersey Governor Jon Corzine (D.) has released a draft version of a new Energy Master Plan (EMP) that sets goals of reducing peak electricity demand and increasing energy efficiency by 2020. Corzine says the EMP addresses high prices, supply shortages, and environmental concerns.

The EMP includes: reducing energy consumption by a least 20%; raising wholesale electricity prices during peak hours by 100%-1000%; meeting 22.5% of the state's electricity needs from renewable sources including solar, wind, and biomass capacity; increasing cogeneration capacity; and investing in companies that develop "clean energy" technologies.

Corzine says that if nothing is done to address the state's energy challenges, total energy consumption will cost more

than \$26 billion/year, a 60% increase over 2005 consumption, and greenhouse gases will be up about 15% over 2005 levels.

The Chemistry Council of New Jersey (CCNJ; Trenton) says it supports the goals set forth in the EMP but that more action needs to be taken now to address the issue of energy supply. "We encourage the governor to bring new power plants online, in particular nuclear plants, and to begin [providing incentives] to companies that have cogeneration power plants to bring them online, since they are a cleaner source of energy and would provide immediate relief," says Hal Bozarth, CCNJ's executive director.

A final EMP is expected to be prepared after public hearings this summer.

—NANCY SEEWALD

## State Plans Overhaul of Site Remediation Laws

Industry groups in New Jersey are awaiting new legislation that aims to reform the state's site remediation laws to enable speedier cleanups and redevelopment of brownfield projects. These groups, including The Chemistry Council of New Jersey (CCNJ; Trenton) and New Jersey Business and Industry Association (NJBIA; Trenton), have long criticized what they call an "overly complex and inefficient" remediation process. The new legislation is expected to be drafted over the next few weeks, CCNJ says.

At a legislative hearing on April 15, CCNJ called for a change to the current "one-size-fits-all" approach to remediation. New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP; Trenton) needs to be more flexible in prioritizing cases and prescribing remedies, CCNJ says. "NJDEP must move from a process-oriented approach towards a performance-driven approach," that would set clear goals and

metrics, CCNJ says. Also, NJDEP's groundwater and soil standards are not achievable, which keeps some sites "in an endless loop" of sampling and testing, it adds.

NJDEP has proposed several changes that it says address inefficiencies and give it more leverage over how cleanups are conducted and monitored, particularly when the end use of a site is residential or educational. "Too often, cases linger in the system for years because of competing priorities within the department and laws that give responsible parties too much discretion over site cleanups," said NJDEP commissioner Lisa P. Jackson.

One NJDEP proposal calls for the establishment of a licensed site professional program that holds consultants performing contaminated-site investigations and cleanups more accountable for their work. However, "if it's truly going to be a licensed site professional program, we want to hold the consultants responsible," and NJDEP's

oversight "should be limited," CCNJ says.

Other points of disagreement include who should pay for licensed site professionals. Industry claims that it would be more efficient if the responsible parties pay, but lawmakers say that would raise ethical concerns.

Other NJDEP proposals include establishing a fund that can be tapped to fix remediation projects that fail and clarifying rules governing long-term site stewardship.

Environmental groups support remediation reform, but say that developers currently have too much oversight, and want NJDEP to be given more authority over the cleanup process. These groups also express concern about the proposed licensed site professional program. "Privatization is not a substitute for strict public oversight," says The Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER; Washington). PEER says that a similar program in Massachusetts has been a failure. —NS



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