

Environment – Top Policy Issues

Air Quality

NJ SEED supports efforts to reduce emissions from out of state sources that continue to impact New Jersey's air quality. NJ SEED believes the newly proposed Air Quality Standards for Ground-Level Ozone will cause an immense burden to the state's business community and do not take into consideration the high level of pollution that migrates from other states into New Jersey.

NJSEED supports bipartisan legislation, S.751/H.R. 1388, the "Clean Air, Strong Economies (CASE)" Act which blocks EPA from revising its ozone standard

downward until 85 percent of the current nonattainment counties comply with the current standard, as well as, S.640 the "Ozone Regulatory Delay and Extension of Assessment Length (ORDEAL)" Act, which would extend EPA's timeline for reviewing and updating NAAQS from 5 years to 10 years.

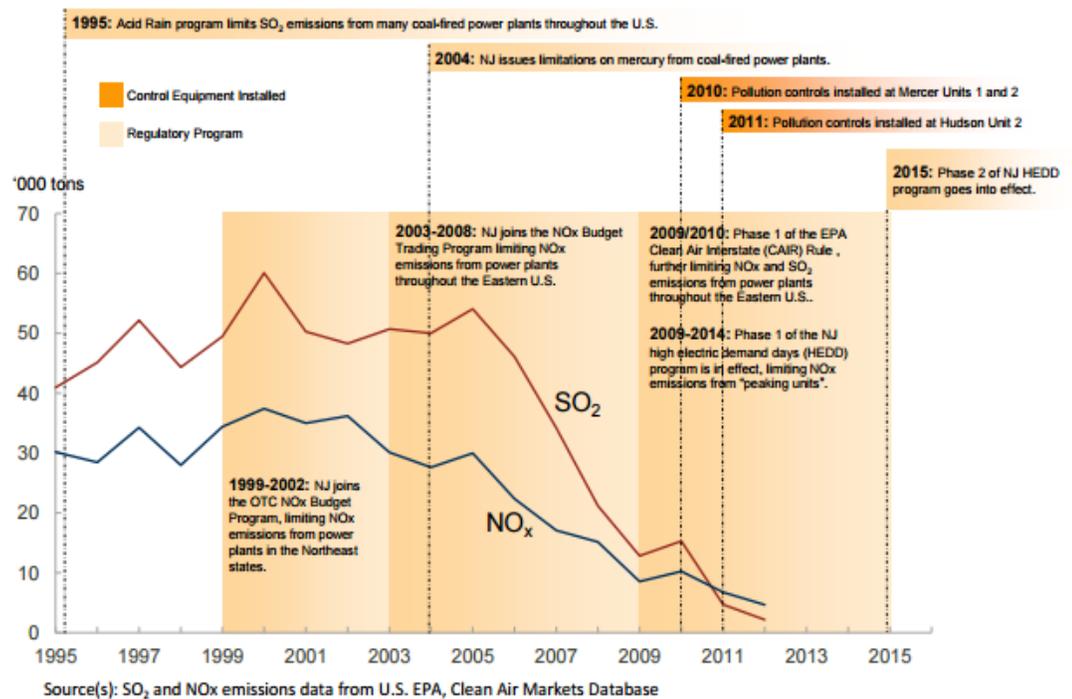
Superfund Cleanup Funding

Superfund has not come close to achieving its initial goals. Over the years, the Superfund program has had a history of being slow, inefficient and very expensive. A large portion of the funds allocated each year, rather than being applied to actual remediation and cleanup of sites, have gone toward oversight, "administrative" and legal costs, which have substantially raised the average cost of the cleanup of individual sites. Since 1995, when the original tax expired, the program has been funded with individual "taxpayer dollars" at an annual rate of approximately \$1.5 billion. Of this total annual sum, approximately \$250 million annually has actually been directed to cleanup or remediation of sites that present an unacceptable risk to public health and the environment.

NJ SEED urges Congress to pursue comprehensive Superfund reform legislation that provides accountability and transparency addresses the core root problems of the program and begins to refocus EPA's efforts on providing the fastest and most cost-effective cleanup.

We oppose the reinstatement of the Superfund tax as originally established and, at a minimum, suggest that a new formula be developed that is equitably applied across the board, and which includes general revenue funds. In these difficult times, simply asking for more funding from the business community to go towards a program that has a poor performance record, without revamping the Superfund program, is unacceptable.

Figure 1. Major Milestones in Reducing Power Plant Emissions in New Jersey



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Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water

NJ SEED believes more needs to be done to ensure safe drinking water, free of contaminants such as lead. 11 New Jersey cities have more lead-affected kids than Flint, Michigan. NJ SEED calls for federal funding for water remediation, treatment and infrastructure. New Jersey houses one of the country's most outdated and aging infrastructure. It is estimated NJ requires \$7 billion to upgrade water infrastructure. NJ SEED commends Senator Menendez and Rep. Pascrell for sponsoring S. 2606/H.R.499: Sustainable Water Infrastructure Investment Act of 2016. Pascrell/Menendez has bill – sustainable water infrastructure act – NJ SEED supports legislation. Ask other legislators to join. Look for parallel legislation to issues

NJ SEED, the Clean Water Construction Coalition, and Utility and Transportation Contractors Association note that there are several issues related to wastewater and drinking water construction federal funding that are currently before the Congress and are important to New Jersey:

- **Federal Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Cuts**

In FY 2017, the agency's budget includes \$2 billion for the SRFs, a decrease of \$257 million in funding from FY 2016 Enacted levels. The budget provides \$1,020.5 million for the Drinking Water SRF and \$979.5 million for the Clean Water SRF.

- **Reauthorization of the Federal Wastewater and Drinking Water Program**

In order for the states to improve their federal wastewater and drinking water programs, it is vital that the Congress approve multi-year legislation, with increased funding levels, as soon as possible.

- **Sewer Systems Dump 7 Billion Gallons of Sewage into N.J Waterways Yearly**

New Jersey cities face water infrastructure issues which will have a multi-billion dollar price-tag to fix. New regulatory requirements that are being imposed by the federal Clean Water Act will force upgrades to these systems. The forced upgrades are a twofold issue because New Jersey does not have the funding currently for the upgrades, nor can New Jersey afford to allow the water infrastructure to stay the way it is.

NJ SEED supports legislation that will increase funding for SRF programs and will provide safe, clean water to New Jersey and its residents. Additionally, NJ SEED seeks legislation that will provide the funds necessary to upgrade the state's dated sewer systems, ensuring New Jersey can keep up with federal standards.

Lead levels in 11 N.J. cities, 2 counties vs. Flint, Michigan

