

Lorelei Carr

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Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 5:16 AM
To: lcarr@rtenv.com
Subject: News from RT Environmental Services, Inc.



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[BENCHMARK U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY STUDY SHOWS
WATER QUALITY IMPROVING IN NEW JERSEY](#)

*STUDY SPANNING FOUR DECADES OF NUTRIENT DATA WILL PROVIDE USEFUL TOOL IN
TARGETING EFFORTS TO FURTHER ENHANCE WATER QUALITY*

A benchmark study by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and commissioned by the Department of Environmental Protection and Delaware River Basin Commission shows that levels of algae-causing nutrients in waterways are largely declining or holding steady, a positive sign for water quality in New Jersey, Commissioner Bob Martin announced today.

"Modernization of wastewater treatment plants, steps to better manage stormwater at the local level, decades of good work by the DEP, and tough laws protecting rivers and streams and ecologically sensitive areas along them are resulting in healthier waterways that enhance our quality of life in New Jersey," Commissioner Martin said. "This report represents the most comprehensive analysis ever of nutrient trends in New Jersey and provides a valuable platform for developing management strategies that will even further improve water quality."

The DEP commissioned the USGS to analyze data from 28 monitoring stations for long-term trends in levels of nitrogen and phosphorous present in waterways. In all, the USGS analyzed more than 82,000 data points collected over a 41-year period from a variety of urban, suburban, agricultural and protected areas.

The news release goes on to report:

This program [...municipal stormwater permitting program] requires local governments to implement stormwater control standards and best management practices for development projects, protect watersheds through steps such as animal waste ordinances, educate the public on impacts of stormwater, and take other steps to mitigate the impacts of stormwater runoff.

Over the years, the state has implemented rigorous standards for industrial and wastewater discharges, known as point sources, and is implementing innovative programs to address combined sewage-stormwater discharges in urban areas with antiquated infrastructure. However, stormwater runoff

pollution, also called nonpoint source pollution, is more difficult to address because of its widespread nature.

The USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2016-5176, Trends in the Quality of Water in New Jersey Streams, Water Years 1971-2011, is available for download at:

<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20165176>

(State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, 2/27/17, News Release)

The entire news release can be viewed here: http://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2017/17_0010.htm

Good News for New Jersey and our Waterways!

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