



For Immediate Release

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**Delaware Riverkeeper Network Challenges the New Jersey Stormwater Permit
For Failing to Protect New Jersey Water Quality**

Trenton, NJ: December 19, 2017, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, represented by the Columbia Environmental Law Clinic, filed a lawsuit against the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in the Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court challenging the state's final New Jersey's updated Stormwater Permit issued November 9, 2017 pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act and applicable to small municipal stormwater systems.

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, plaintiffs in the case, stated that "the final permit issued by the state will not do the job of cleaning up the stormwater pollution that is being dumped into New Jersey streams. As a result, New Jersey waterways will continue to be polluted in damaging ways, and the volume of stormwater that is discharged will continue to increase the level of flooding threatening and damaging so many New Jersey communities."

Earlier this year, on DEP assistant commissioner for Water Resource Management, Dan Kennedy, acknowledged that "stormwater pollution remains our biggest water-quality challenge." And yet, NJDEP failed to issue the strong permit necessary to help clean up and address the problem. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Natural Resources Defense Council, American Littoral Society, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, Clean Ocean Action, Hackensack Riverkeeper, New Jersey Environmental Lobby, NY/NJ Baykeeper, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association joined in comments to NJDEP recommending that stronger pollution limits, pollution reduction plans, municipal ordinance language, and enforcement mechanisms be included in the permit.

"We need strong pollution protection standards and permits in order to protect New Jersey communities and waterways. We tried to work through the public comment process to secure the protections needed but NJDEP refused to hear us, so now we have been forced to take matters into our own hands and bring this legal challenge," van Rossum added. "Perhaps now NJDEP will listen."

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Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the four states of the Delaware River Watershed including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. DRN provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education, and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws.

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