



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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Pinelands Commission to discuss link between septic systems and clean water during series of special meetings

NEW LISBON, NJ –The Pinelands Commission will hold a series of meetings in municipalities throughout the Pinelands Area in November and December to discuss the impact that septic systems have on water quality. During the meetings, Commission staff will be present to answer questions related to septic systems and will discuss how septic systems can affect public health, water quality, and property values.

“These meetings will be of great interest to Pinelands residents, approximately one-third of whom live in homes with septic systems that, absent proper maintenance, can have an adverse impact on the water supplies upon which they rely,” said Ed Wengrowski, the Commission’s Wastewater Management Coordinator.

The meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates in the towns listed below:

Date Location

- 11/7 Galloway Township, Atlantic County (Municipal Building)
- 11/8 Maurice River Township, Cumberland County (Municipal Building)
- 11/28 Upper Township, Cape May County (Municipal Building)
- 11/29 Buena Vista Township, Atlantic County (Municipal Building)
- 11/30 Barnegat Township, Ocean County (Municipal Building)
- 12/5 Franklin Township, Gloucester County (Community Center)
- 12/6 Tabernacle Township, Burlington County (Municipal Building)
- 12/10 Winslow Township, Camden County (Municipal Building)
- 12/11 Pemberton Township, Burlington County (Library)
- 12/12 Jackson Township, Ocean County (Library)

A preliminary agenda and directions to the venues can be obtained by calling Linda DiCicco at 609-894-7300 extension 129 or e-mailing wastewater@njpines.state.nj.gov. Additional meeting dates will be announced as they are scheduled.

All interested citizens, local officials, boards of health, environmental commissions and planning organizations, are encouraged to attend. Local real estate agents, septic installers, environmental planners and engineers will also find the meetings of interest.

These meetings are part of an ongoing effort by the Commission to develop programs for the management of septic systems in the Pinelands. Discussion topics will include system maintenance, resale inspections, repair options and ways in which proper operation of systems can be achieved through local management programs. The Commission is seeking input from the

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public on all of these issues. Scientists from Vermont-based Stone Environmental are assisting the Commission in this effort.

At the conclusion of the project, the Commission intends to release a septic system Best Management Practices manual to help Pinelands Area municipalities comply with proposed New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection septic system management requirements

For additional information, contact Ed Wengrowski of the Pinelands Commission at (609) 894-7300 (ext.161).

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