



Process for Public Comment on Public Development Applications

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New Jersey Pinelands Commission
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The New Jersey Pinelands Commission greatly values the public's input because it can lead to better, more informed decisions. To that end, the Commission has begun implementing a new process that provides the public with more opportunities to comment on applications filed by public agencies.

Under this process:

- The public can learn about active public development applications on a newly created webpage. To view the page, please click [here](#).
- The Commission updates this webpage to alert the public when applications are complete and when the public comment period will close. This notification is highlighted in **red** lettering. Here's an example:

Application#199999.999 Pine Barrens County Authority

Received on: 4/11/2011

Project: *Storm drainage improvements on Pine Barrens Boulevard*

Municipality: *Pinelands Township*

Block: 999 Lot: 99.99

Public Notice: *Required - Published on 6/17/2011*

Application is complete and the final opportunity for oral public comment will occur at the August 12, 2011 Commission meeting. Written comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. that day.

- When a public development application is deemed complete at least 10 days before the next scheduled Commission meeting, the Commission will accept comments on the application during that meeting. It will accept written comments on the application until 5 p.m. on the day of that meeting.
- Following the meeting, the Commission's Executive Director will prepare and issue a report that summarizes and includes responses to relevant public comments, as well as a recommendation for approval or denial of the application. The Commission will then take action on the application during its next scheduled meeting.

Frequently asked questions:

1) Will the applications that are subject to public comments at the meeting appear on the Commission's meeting agenda?

Answer: Yes. The meeting agenda will include a listing of public development applications that are subject to final public comment.

2) During which portion of the Commission meeting will public comment on these applications be accepted?

Answer: The public can provide written or oral testimony on these applications during the "Public Comment on Agenda Items" portion of the meeting, which is typically the fifth item on the agenda.

3) Will I be able to ask the Commission questions about these applications during the meeting?

Answer: Yes. The public can ask questions about the applications during the meeting at which public comment is being accepted.

4) Other than checking the webpage frequently, is there a way to find out exactly which meeting the Commission will take comments on these applications?

Answer: Yes. Interested parties can register to receive an e-mail notification indicating when these applications are complete and the date of the meeting at which the Commission will accept comments. To register, please send an e-mail to info@njpines.state.nj.us.

5) What happens if an application is deemed to be complete less than 10 days before a Commission meeting?

Answer: The public will have an opportunity to provide oral comment on these applications during the following month's Commission meeting. For example, if an application is deemed complete less than 10 days before the Commission's August meeting, the public can provide its final oral comments on that application during the September Commission meeting. In that example, written comments can be submitted at any point until 5 p.m. during the date of the September Commission meeting.

6) Will these procedures increase the time to process these applications?

Answer: Yes. The review time will be increased by approximately 30 days. The process recognizes the importance of providing the public with ample opportunities to comment. It also emphasizes the need for applicants to provide all of the information to complete their application in a timely manner.

7) Is there a schedule of Commission meeting dates and the corresponding times for public comment and Commission action?

Answer: Yes. Please see the attached document.

8) How can I get additional, specific details about public development applications?

Answer: Interested parties can arrange to review the file for each application by contacting the Commission at (609) 894-7300.