

**New Jersey Water Monitoring Coordinating Council:  
Integrating Monitoring Across a State Water Monitoring Community**

Leslie J. McGeorge and Alena Baldwin-Brown  
NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Water Monitoring and Standards  
P.O. Box 409  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Richard H. Kropp  
USGS NJ Water Science Center

**ABSTRACT**

With a common interest in integrating and strengthening the water monitoring community in New Jersey, the New Jersey Water Monitoring Coordinating Council (NJ Council) was formed on World Water Monitoring Day in 2003. The NJ Council's vision is to provide a water information foundation for the management and protection of the State's aquatic resources. The mission of this consensus-driven organization, modeled after the National Water Quality Monitoring Council, is to promote the coordination, collaboration and communication of scientifically sound water data. The NJ Council addresses biological, chemical, physical and ecosystem aspects of water monitoring, including surface and ground waters, freshwater, estuarine and marine environments. Goals include: facilitating monitoring technology transfer; enhancing data exchange and compatibility; promoting the integration and efficient use of monitoring resources; developing support for monitoring; identifying water research needs; and interacting with other national/state councils. The NJ Council is comprised of representatives of federal (USGS, EPA, NOAA) state (NJDEP), regional and local government entities (e.g., Pinelands Commission), interstate organizations (e.g., Delaware River Basin Commission), academia, and the volunteer monitoring community. NJDEP and USGS chair the NJ Council. Members are responsible for ambient monitoring programs and/or aquatic research in the State's waters. Council products include: a water monitoring directory, the New Jersey Water Monitoring Workshop, assistance with the Delaware Basin Pilot of the National Water Quality Network, increased data submittals for the NJ Integrated Water Monitoring and Assessment Reports, and input to the *NJ Water Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (2005-2014)*. Technology exchange is conducted on topics such as emerging contaminants, fish and shellfish tissue monitoring, microbial source track down, water quantity measurements, biological monitoring, nutrient sampling, and county/volunteer monitoring. The Council is partially supported by a grant from EPA's Watershed Protection Program. Additional information is available at : [www.state.nj.us/dep/wmn/wmcchome](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wmn/wmcchome).

**KEYWORDS**

Water Monitoring Councils, Water Monitoring Partnerships, Data Compatibility, Data Exchange, New Jersey