

# The Star-Ledger

By [Letters to the Editor | The Star-Ledger](#)

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## NJDEP should adjust hearings for working New Jerseyans

Tuesday was the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection's public hearing scheduled for all people who live in northern New Jersey to comment on amendments that will ultimately weaken really important environmental rules on Water Quality Management Planning, critical rules that protect the Highlands and the rest of the state. The meeting was held in Morristown, started at 1 p.m., scheduled to end at 4 p.m. The public who arrived at 1 p.m. concluded their statements by 2 p.m. and NJDEP closed the hearing.

What happens to people who thought the hearing went to 4 p.m. and arrived at 3 p.m.? No hearing will be conducted anywhere in New Jersey in the evening on these rule amendments, except for one in Gloucester County, plus one other in Trenton during business hours. When do working folks have an opportunity to stand up and share their thoughts?

Clearly, NJDEP neither cares what people think about their proposed wholesale weakening of environmental protections, nor has any intention of listening to them. They have turned the process into a sham! Needless to say, not one person commenting in Morristown supported the department's amendments. The people who have the department's ear – developers – didn't need to come and comment.

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