



Michele N. Siekerka, Esq.
Assistant Commissioner for Water Resource Management
Department of Environmental Protection

Michele N. Siekerka, Esq. joined the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) in 2010 and has most recently taken on the critical position of Acting Deputy Commissioner. Her most recent position at DEP was Assistant Commissioner for Water Resource Management.

During her tenure as Assistant Commissioner of Water she was a principal player in Governor Christie's charge in "Rebuilding New Jersey" in the wake of "Superstorm Sandy", responsible for coordinating funding, outreach and resources for the rebuilding of impacted environmental infrastructure.

Additionally Michele was charged with overseeing the execution of strategies for comprehensive water management including water supply, water quality and water monitoring, which included:

Serving as a member of the Steering Committee for the State Strategic Plan;

- Serving as the Commissioner's representative to the Delaware River Basin Commission – a federal compact commission including the Federal Government and the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey;
- Serving as the Commissioner's representative to the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust, which is responsible for leveraging state revolving loan funds to support water infrastructure, and
- Leading Governor Christie's "Barnegat Bay 10 Point Plan"- a watershed restoration priority.

This position followed her role as the Department's first Assistant Commissioner for Sustainability and Green Energy (SAGE). Building on her work with sustainability and green energy, Michele brought to the Division of Water Resource Management a deep understanding of the key roles of green infrastructure, waste minimization and appropriate water reclamation for beneficial reuse. Having served as a steering committee member for the State Strategic Plan, Michele also served as the Department's liaison for the Plan's implementation.

Michele's background includes serving as the president and CEO of the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce, senior legal counsel and vice president of human resources with the Automobile Association of America and as a law partner in a Mercer County law practice. As an alumnus of the Ford Foundation Fellowship for Regional Sustainable Development, Michele worked with Chamber of Commerce, government and business leaders from across the nation to develop regional action plans. She also served on Governor Chris Christie's Red Tape Review Group.

Commissioner Martin's vision statement for the DEP recognizes that a healthy environment and healthy economy go hand in hand. Michele's experience with New Jersey's business community coupled with her legal background and strategic management skills enables DEP to develop and execute strategies for comprehensive water management and a sustainable water infrastructure for New Jersey.

A Robbinsville resident, Siekerka earned a BA in Political Science and German from Rutgers University and a JD from Temple University School of Law.

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