The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, a national leader on addressing emerging chemical contaminants, earlier this year organized an interstate working group to address the detection of the synthetic chemical 1,4-dioxane in the Delaware River. The working group consists of experts from NJDEP, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Delaware River Basin Commission, as well as representatives from New Jersey American Water and other water system industry representatives.

This working group is collaboratively investigating potential sources of the chemical and possible remedies. This work includes enhanced sampling and assessment as well as sharing of data and information. As a potential source or sources are identified, the group will work to coordinate a course of action to quickly address any potential risks to the environment or public health.

New Jersey is committed to protecting our drinking water from chemical exposure risks and will continue to work together with our partners in the public and private sectors to address this issue. As an important part of the DEP's efforts to protect public health, last week the New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute, comprised of the state's leading water quality experts, voted 12-0 to recommend establishing a health-based drinking water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 0.33 parts per billion. This recommendation will be forwarded to NJDEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette for review in the coming weeks. For more information about New Jersey's ongoing efforts as well as information about the potential health effects of 1, 4 dioxane, visit www.nj.gov/dep/14-dioxane