

The New Jersey Appellate Division recently upheld key provisions of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Rules protecting and improving water quality. These "Water Quality Management Planning Rules" are critical in allowing the construction of sewer lines only in those areas which are not environmentally sensitive. Where sewer lines go, intensive development will certainly follow. Intensive development promotes housing sprawl, impervious surfaces and declines in water quality.

Our Watershed Association applauds this important court ruling. By upholding provisions of the rules, which keep sewer lines out of areas with threatened and endangered species, and which require a lowered maximum level of nitrate to be discharged by wastewater, the court is protecting the health of New Jersey's residents. Protecting water quality by limiting sprawl and reducing density in environmentally sensitive areas will benefit all of us. The NJDEP must be allowed to continue its stewardship of our environment.