

# NEW JERSEY'S ENERGY EVOLUTION PART TWO

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## Speaker Biographies

### Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Catherine McCabe's desire to protect the environment is rooted in childhood summers spent in the Adirondack Mountains of New York, swimming, hiking and drinking from mountain streams. The opportunity to drink the clear water – and, in later years, to sadly discover it was no longer safe – would propel her to a career in protecting the environment, integrating environmental science and the law.

Now a recognized leader in environmental protection, the DEP Commissioner leads a skilled team of environmental professionals to safeguard New Jersey's natural and historic resources, and to protect public health from the effects of environmental pollution. She is committed to fulfilling Governor Murphy's environmental goals, including the climate change goals of reaching 100 percent clean energy by 2050 and preparing New Jersey residents to adapt to climate change.

One of Commissioner McCabe's first DEP initiatives was to establish a set of principles and priorities to guide the department's efforts. Her principles are simple: follow the law, use the best available science, listen to all sides, find the best balance, and be transparent and honest with the public. Under Commissioner McCabe, the DEP's top priorities are reducing and responding to climate change, protecting New Jersey's water, revitalizing communities and protecting public health, managing and promoting New Jersey's thriving natural resources, and strengthening the DEP workforce.

To reduce New Jersey's emissions of greenhouse gases and achieve the Governor's clean energy goals, one of Commissioner McCabe's first actions was to lead the DEP to rejoin the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a cap-and-trade system to reduce GHG emissions from the electric power generation sector. Commissioner McCabe and the DEP also work closely with the Board of Public Utilities and other agencies to promote the development of offshore wind energy, while protecting marine resources and fisheries. DEP is also working to reduce GHG emissions from the transportation sector, by promoting and providing funding for electric vehicles and charging stations, as well as collaborating with other Northeast states to design a potential market-based system to reduce GHG emissions from vehicles.

To increase New Jersey's resilience and adaptation to the already-apparent effects of climate change, Commissioner McCabe established the Office of Climate and Flood Resilience in the DEP and spearheaded the development of Governor Murphy's Climate Resilience Executive Order 89, which established a statewide Chief Resilience Officer in the DEP and an Interagency Council on Climate Resilience. Under Commissioner McCabe's leadership, DEP issued a Sea Level Rise Report for the state and is developing a Coastal Resilience Plan, as well as leading the Interagency Council's work to develop a statewide Climate Resilience Strategy.

To protect New Jersey's valuable water resources, in 2018, Commissioner McCabe revoked the prior Administration's rollback of septic density rules in the Highlands region, protecting the quality of drinking water that serves more than half of New Jersey's families. To protect public health, Commissioner McCabe has actively worked to protect drinking water supplies from contamination with lead and PFAS ("forever chemicals"). Under her leadership, DEP has used both funding and enforcement tools to address lead contamination and issued the first PFAS drinking water limits in the country.

The DEP has cleaned up many contaminated sites and invested in brownfields redevelopment to revitalize New Jersey's communities during Commissioner McCabe's tenure. She partnered with the state's Economic Development Authority to greatly expand the DEP's successful Community Collaborative Initiative, which provides close support to communities working on revitalization efforts around the state. Commissioner McCabe prioritized public health and environmental justice by targeting compliance and enforcement efforts on air pollution in overburdened communities; revitalized the DEP's Environmental Justice Council; and spearheaded Governor Murphy's Executive Order 23 requiring state agencies to work together to promote environmental justice in the state.

Partnering with Attorney General Gurbir Grewal, Commissioner McCabe has filed multiple lawsuits to recover damages to natural resources caused by polluters. These funds are dedicated to restoring and preserving precious natural resources around the state. DEP also invests substantial Green Acres funding to acquire and preserve natural and historic tracts of land for the benefit and enjoyment of New Jersey residents. Commissioner McCabe was pleased to see an approximate 20-year land preservation effort come to fruition when the DEP recently entered into a purchase agreement with Atlantic City Electric to buy a 1,400-acre property in Cumberland County – one of the most significant land acquisitions in DEP history.

Harking back to her childhood roots, Commissioner McCabe takes particular pleasure in overseeing the management of the state's parks, forests, fish and wildlife, and marine resources. She has an avid interest in promoting urban parks and trees, and recently announced the gift of seedlings from the famed Salem Oak for every New Jersey municipality – in celebration of the 50th birthday of the DEP and the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Commissioner McCabe has guided the DEP since the Murphy Administration took office in early 2018. Previously, she had a long career as an environmental lawyer and manager with the federal government, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Justice. She served at EPA from 2005 to 2017 as the Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (2005-2011); as a judge on EPA's Environmental Appeals Board (2011-2014); and as Deputy Regional Administrator of EPA's Region 2 office in New York City (2014-2018). In 2017, she served as the Acting Administrator of EPA (January and February) and as Acting Regional Administrator of EPA Region 2.

Before joining EPA, Commissioner McCabe was a trial attorney and manager at the U.S. Department of Justice from 1983 to 2005, in the Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. Her various positions there included Deputy Chief and Assistant Chief of the Environmental Enforcement Section; Assistant Chief in the Natural Resources Section; and Senior Counsel in the Policy, Legislation and Special Litigation Section.

Prior to federal service, Commissioner McCabe served as an Assistant Attorney General in the New York Attorney General's Environmental Protection Bureau. Previously, she was associated with the law firm of Webster and Sheffield in New York City.

The Commissioner earned a law degree from Columbia Law School and a bachelor's degree in environmental science from Barnard College. She also studied environmental science at the graduate level in Columbia University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

### **Michael Dillon, Partner, Manko Gold Katcher Fox LLP**

Since joining the firm in 2012, Michael has concentrated his practice on regulatory matters, particularly in the areas of air and water quality, for a wide array of complex industries, including clients in the chemical manufacturing, waste, power generation, petroleum refining, transportation, and commercial sectors. Michael has significant experience in counseling clients on federal and state air pollution and water quality regulations, negotiating agency enforcement actions for allegations of regulatory non-compliance, and assisting in securing operating permits. Michael also assists clients in preparing comments on proposed agency rulemakings and challenging federal regulations, including extensive experience with appeals of air regulations before the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Michael graduated magna cum laude from Temple University's James E. Beasley School of Law where he was the Managing Editor of the Temple Law Review. During his final year, Michael served a year-long Federal Judicial Clerkship Clinical with the Honorable Gene E.K. Pratter in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Michael also received multiple academic awards, including the Burton Award for Legal Achievement "Distinguished Law School Winner," a national writing award presented for excellence in legal writing and Temple Law's top writing prize upon graduation.

In the community Michael serves on the Board of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, a National Estuary Program that aims to improve the quality of water in the Delaware Estuary through a science-based, collaborative approach. Michael is also an adjunct professor at Villanova University's Charles Widger School of Law where he teaches environmental law.

### **Shawn La Tourette, Esq., Chief of Staff, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**

Shawn M. LaTourette is an environmental lawyer, policymaker and executive serving as Chief of Staff of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), where he crafts policy and leads the senior management team supporting Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe, a member of the Cabinet of Governor Phil Murphy. As DEP's principal liaison to the Office of the Governor and chief policy advisor to the Commissioner, Shawn is responsible for driving the agency's affirmative agenda, including modernizing the state's environmental regulations in response to climate change, promoting the responsible development of offshore wind and renewable energy resources, encouraging brownfields redevelopment, protecting public health and water resources, recovering damages for natural resource injuries, and furthering the promise of environmental justice. As the leader of DEP's Senior Staff, Shawn also provides policy advice and direction to each of the DEP programs responsible for protecting New Jersey's air, land, water, and natural and historic resources, overseeing a staff of ~2,800 environmental professionals and an operational/grant-making budget of ~\$1 billion.

Previously, Shawn was Deputy Commissioner for Legal & Regulatory Affairs at DEP, serving as the chief counsel to Commissioner McCabe on all legal and regulatory policy issues. With support from an incredible staff of talented attorneys, engineers, and administrators, Shawn was responsible for oversight of defensive matters involving DEP and managed the agency's affirmative litigation program, including the revival of DEP's efforts to recover natural resource damages (NRDs) and address environmental justice concerns. Shawn also managed DEP's Office of Legal Affairs, which administers DEP's regulations and handles transactional legal matters, as well as the Office of Dispute Resolution, which assists DEP's programs and their stakeholders to resolve disputes.

An environmental lawyer prior to entering public service, Shawn was most recently a Director of the Environmental Law Department at Gibbons P.C, an AmLaw 200 firm with reach throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. With a focus on serving clients in the infrastructure, energy, specialty chemicals, and real estate and redevelopment industries, Shawn counseled clients through the responsible development of critical projects and litigated high-stakes environmental cases in both state and federal courts in New Jersey and New York. He became an attorney after a decade in management, paralegal, and community organizing roles focused on environmental issues, and got his start in environmental protection helping victims of toxic exposure and communities impacted by contaminated drinking water to organize and protect their rights to a clean environment. A life-long New Jersey resident, Shawn is a double-graduate of Rutgers University, having earned his bachelor's degree from Rutgers in New Brunswick and his law degree from Rutgers in Camden.

### **Christine Guhl Sadovy, Chief of Staff, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities**

Christine Sadovy is the Chief of Staff at the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU), appointed by President Joe Fiordaliso in July 2020. Christine joined NJBPU in October 2018 to assist the agency in spearheading Governor Phil Murphy's clean energy agenda. In her time at NJBPU she has worked on several key initiatives including the 2019 Energy Master Plan, and implementation of the 2018 Clean Energy Act and the state's electric vehicle incentive program.

Prior to serving in her role at NJBPU, Christine was the Legislative and Political Director for Planned Parenthood Action Fund of NJ. She effectively advocated for the restoration of funding for family planning in New Jersey and worked to ensure pro-reproductive health candidates were elected to state office.

Christine began her career working on energy and environmental issues with the National Sierra Club as a representative of the Beyond Coal campaign. She spent five years working to advance clean energy policies in New Jersey, including the development of offshore wind and increasing energy efficiency.

Christine is a lifelong New Jersey resident. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Rutgers University and is a graduate of Lead New Jersey. Christine grew up in Trenton and currently lives in Lambertville with her 5-year old son and two dogs.