



James Tierney  
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Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Jim Tierney serves as the Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Assistant Commissioner Tierney leads DEC's management team for policy and programs to restore and maintain the physical, biological and chemical integrity of New York's waters – the central mission of the Clean Water Act. Areas of responsibilities include: sewage and industrial waste water treatment plants; programs to address polluted runoff from concentrated animal feeding operations, construction excavations and urbanized areas; drinking water supply permits; water quality standards; stream classifications, and water quality assessments. Mr. Tierney also oversees critical dam safety, flood plain mapping and coastal erosion hazard programs. Included within Mr. Tierney's responsibilities is representation of New York's interests on the numerous interstate and international commissions with respect to the water quality and resources of the Great Lakes, Long Island Sound, the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary, the Susquehanna River Basin, Lake Champlain and the Delaware River Basin. He also oversees DEC's efforts to protect the New York City drinking water supply and watershed, as well as the Hudson River Estuary Program.

Mr. Tierney served from 1998 to 2007 as the New York City Watershed Inspector General, a joint appointment of the Governor and Attorney General within the New York State Department of Law. This position was created by virtue of the 1997 New York City Watershed Memorandum of Agreement and a 1998 Executive Order of the Governor to better protect the unfiltered drinking water of 9 million consumers. Mr. Tierney was an Assistant Attorney General with the Environmental Protection Bureau from 1991 to 2007, gaining experience in all levels of State and Federal Courts in the field of environmental, natural resource and public health law. Mr. Tierney was the recipient of the 2002 "Best Brief" award for U.S. Supreme Court practice by the National Association of Attorneys General and received the 2007 Public Official of the Year award from the Natural Resources Defense Council and Earth Day New York. He is a member of the bar of the United States Supreme Court, among others. Before joining the Attorney General's office Jim was associated with the environmental law firm of Sive, Paget & Riesel and served as a law clerk to the Hon. Neal P. McCurn, then Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York. Mr. Tierney is a 1988 graduate of the SUNY Buffalo School of Law where he served as Articles Editor of the Law Review.