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New Jersey Supreme Court Opens Door for Spill Act Claims

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On January 26, 2015, in *Morristown Associates v. Grant Oil Co.*, (A-38-13) (073248), the New Jersey Supreme Court confirmed that the general six-year statute of limitations contained in N.J.S.A. 2A:14-1 does not apply to private claims for contribution made pursuant to the New Jersey Spill Compensation and Control Act, N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11f(a)(2)(a). Consequently, individuals or entities deemed to be "responsible parties" as a result of ownership or operations conducted at cleanup sites, may have an opportunity to seek contribution damages from current or prior owners/operators, or other parties, without the constraints of the State's general 6-year limitations period, which might have otherwise banned such damage claims.

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