

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

AMENDMENT TO THE NORTHEAST WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on APR 15 1996, pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Water Quality Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 58:11A-1 et seq., and the Statewide Water Quality Management Planning rules (N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4), an amendment to the Northeast Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department). This amendment modifies the Florham Park Sewerage Authority (FPSA) Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) primarily with regard to the method of wastewater treatment and disposal for the Sun Valley at Florham Park and adjacent Riverbend at Florham Park proposed residential developments in the southeast portion of Florham Park Borough, Morris County. The Sun Valley development will be located on Lot 29, Block 4201 and is proposed to include 305 residential units with a total projected wastewater flow of 78,675 gallons per day (gpd). The Riverbend development will be located on Lots 26 and 27, Block 4201 and is proposed to include 200 residential units with a total wastewater flow of 38,700 gpd. These properties were previously proposed to be served by their own sewage treatment plant (STP) discharging to the Passaic River. However, this amendment identifies these properties and two adjacent small lots, Lots 28 and 30, Block 4201, as within the sewer service area of the FPSA STP. A pump station and force main will be required for this connection. The FPSA discharges to the Passaic River, classified as FW2-NT (fresh water 2 nontrout), and is permitted under New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Permit No. NJ0025518. No expansion of the STP above the current permitted flow of 1.4 million gallons per day (mgd) is proposed as part of this amendment.

This amendment also modifies the FPSA WMP with regard to the method of wastewater treatment and disposal for the residential area between Park Avenue and Punch Bowl Road in the western part of Florham Park Borough. This area, which is served by individual subsurface sewage disposal systems, is deleted from the Morris Woodland STP future sewer service area and included within a ground water discharge service area for facilities with wastewater planning flows of less than 2,000 gpd. In addition, with regard to the areas of East Hanover Township served by the FPSA STP, the FPSA WMP is corrected to address the following: 1) The area adjacent to the Florham Park Borough boundary and west of Hanover Road which was formerly served by the FPSA STP is now served by the Parsippany-Troy Hills STP. This area is therefore excluded from the delineated FPSA STP sewer service area in the amended WMP; and, 2) The single family homes located along Mann and Florham Avenues are served by the FPSA STP and are shown as such in this amendment.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on January 16, 1996. Comments on this amendment were received during the public comment period and are summarized below with the Department's responses.

COMMENT: The Borough of Chatham opposed the proposed amendment to the FPSA WMP based on the following: 1) The WMP amendment appeared to be incomplete; 2) The proposed development in the additional FPSA sewer service areas would be located

in wetlands; and 3) There is the potential of exceeding the capacity of the FPSA STP which would lead to degradation of the Passaic River. To address their concerns, the Borough requested that the Department approve a 30-day extension of the public comment period and that the applicant provide additional information regarding actual development in Florham Park Borough since 1987, FPSA's compliance with its NJPDES permit limits, and an explanation as to how actual and potential development will not exceed the design capacity of the STP.

RESPONSE: Responses to Chatham Borough's concerns are as follows:

1) With the corrected Page 2-2 received by the Borough on January 26, 1996, the amended WMP is complete.

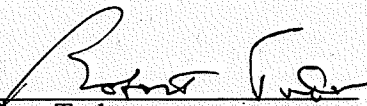
2) The presence of wetlands and/or floodplains on the site of the proposed development does not preclude that development as long as all applicable wetlands and stream encroachment permits, required in accordance with the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act rules and the Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules, are obtained by the applicant. Currently, there is a pending application with the Department's Land Use Regulation Program for wetlands permits for the Sun Valley and Riverbend proposed developments (identified as "Forgione and Sterling Properties" in that permit application).

3) As proposed, the projected wastewater flow to the FPSA STP, including the additional Sun Valley and Riverbend developments, is 1.33 mgd. This flow is based on the Department's projected wastewater flow criteria in N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3 (Treatment Works Approval [TWA] rules). The projected wastewater flow of 1.33 mgd is within the design capacity and permitted flow of 1.4 mgd for the FPSA STP. Therefore, the amendment does not propose, nor is it expected, that the design capacity of the FPSA STP will be exceeded by inclusion of the additional service areas. Any proposal to expand the STP above its current permitted flow would require an additional amendment to the WMP, as well as a NJPDES permit modification and TWA permit. In addition, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-22.16 (TWA rules), when the committed flow to the FPSA STP reaches or exceeds 80 percent of its permitted capacity, a capacity assurance program is required to be implemented to prevent an overloading of the facility or a violation of the NJPDES permit.

Since the FPSA STP is consistently meeting its NJPDES permit limits, the amended WMP identifies existing and projected wastewater flows in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.18 (Statewide Water Quality Management Planning rules), and no expansion of the STP is proposed as part of this amendment, the Department has decided not to extend the 30-day public comment period.

This amendment represents only one part of the permit process and other issues will be addressed prior to final permit issuance. Additional issues which were not reviewed in conjunction with this amendment but which may need to be addressed may include, but are not limited to, the following: antidegradation; effluent limitations; water quality analysis; exact locations and designs of future treatment works (pump stations,

interceptors, sewers, outfalls, wastewater treatment plants); and development in wetlands, flood prone areas, designated Wild and Scenic River areas, or other environmentally sensitive areas which are subject to regulation under Federal or State statutes or rules.



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4/15/96
Date

MEG/Sunval2