## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION** 

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**DIVISION OF WATER MONITORING AND STANDARDS** 

**Adopted Amendment to the Northeast Water Quality Management Plan** 

**Public Notice** 

Take notice that on October 14, 2020, pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Water Quality Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 58:11-1 et seq., and the Water Quality Management Planning rules, N.J.A.C. 7:15, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) adopted an amendment to the Northeast Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan. This amendment, identified as "Guru Nanak, Inc." (Program Interest No. 435442, Activity No. AMD190011), establishes a 3.04 acre discharge to ground water sewer service area (SSA) to allow for a proposed renovation of an existing office building into a house of worship on Block 3603, Lot 2, Oakland Borough, Bergen County. The project consists of the conversion of an existing 24,740 square foot office building into a house of worship with a commercial kitchen and a 1 bedroom apartment that would generate a projected wastewater flow of 2,350 gallons per day (gpd), to be treated by a proposed New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System permitted subsurface sewage disposal system, based on flow calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:9A-7.4. The only increase in the building footprint is for a 374 square foot entrance foyer.

Preliminary notice was published in the New Jersey Register on April 6, 2020 at 52 N.J.R. 808(a).

No comments were received during the comment period. This notice represents the Department's

determination that the amendment is compliant with the applicable regulatory criteria at N.J.A.C. 7:15, as described below.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.3(b), site specific amendments are limited to alterations of the eligible SSA needed to address a specific project or activity. N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(j)2 requires that site specific amendments proposing to add 100 or more acres or generating 20,000 gpd or more of wastewater flow must update the wastewater treatment capacity analysis prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.5(b) to include the proposed project or activity. The proposed project involves less than 100 acres and will generate less than 20,000 gpd of wastewater flow; therefore, update of the wastewater treatment capacity analysis is not required.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(g)6, the Department instructed the applicant to request written statements of consent from Oakland Borough and the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Oakland Borough adopted Resolution 20-161 on June 10, 2020 consenting to the proposed amendment. The Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders declined to respond to the applicant's request for a resolution.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(h), applicants for proposals in the Highlands Region must simultaneously submit the application to both the Department and the Highlands Council to provide an opportunity for the Highlands Council to submit comments prior to the Department rendering a decision on the application. The proposed project is located within the Highlands planning area portion of Oakland Borough. Oakland Borough is not a Highlands conforming municipality as defined at N.J.A.C 7:15-1.5. The Highlands Council reviewed the proposed amendment for consistency with the Net Water Availability provisions of the Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP) and issued a letter on December 9, 2019, stating

that an Executive Order 114 (2008) review was not required since this parcel is located in the Existing Community Zone of the planning area.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(c)3, in the Highlands planning areas, for municipalities that do not conform with the Highlands RMP, areas eligible for sewer service shall conform to 4.4(d) and (h). Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(d), the following are not eligible for delineation as SSAs, except as otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(i), (j), (k), and (l): environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) identified under N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e) as any contiguous area of 25 acres or larger consisting of any of the following features, alone or in combination: endangered or threatened wildlife species habitat, Natural Heritage Priority Sites, riparian zones of Category One (C1) waters and their tributaries, or wetlands; coastal planning areas identified under N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(f); and ESAs subject to 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions under N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(g). The Department conducted an evaluation of the project site using a GIS shapefile provided by the applicant compared to the Department's GIS data layers available at http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/listall.html and/or other information as noted below, to determine the presence of any such areas in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e), (f), and (g) and made the following findings:

- The Department determined that the new SSA does not contain any areas mapped as endangered or threatened wildlife species habitat Rank 3, 4 or 5 on the Department's Landscape Maps of Habitat for Endangered, Threatened or Other Priority Wildlife based on the "Landscape Project Data" Version 3.3 GIS data layers in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)1.
- The Department determined that the new SSA does not contain any areas mapped as Natural Heritage
   Priority Sites based on the "Natural Heritage Priority Sites" GIS data layer in accordance with N.J.A.C.
   7:15-4.4(e)2.

- The Department determined that the new SSA does not contain any C1 waters or 300 foot riparian zones along any C1 waters or upstream tributaries within the same HUC 14 watershed of any C1 waters based on the "Surface Water Quality Standards" GIS data layer in accordance with and N.J.A.C. 7:13-4.1(c)1 and N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)3.
- The Department determined that the new SSA does not contain any wetlands based on the "Wetlands 2012" GIS data layer in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)4.
- The Department determined that the new SSA does not contain any areas mapped as Fringe Planning Areas, Rural Planning Areas, or Environmentally Sensitive Planning Areas within the Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) zone based on the "CAFRA (polygon)" GIS layer and the "State Plan Data" GIS layer, in accordance with 7:15-4.4(f).
- The Department determined that there are no 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions applicable to the project based on the USEPA list of New Jersey Counties with ESA Grant Conditions at <a href="https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/environmentally-sensitive-area-esa-grant-condition-waiver-program-region-2">https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/environmentally-sensitive-area-esa-grant-condition-waiver-program-region-2</a> in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(g).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(h)1 and 2, the Department considered the land uses allowed in adopted zoning ordinances, future land uses shown in adopted municipal or county master plans, and other local land use objectives. The proposed project received a use variance resolution (unnumbered) from the Oakland Borough Board of Adjustment on December 13, 2016. The Bergen County Department of Planning and Engineering has notified the Department that it will not confirm or deny consistency of proposed amendments with the county master plan, as the plan which dates from 1966, does not have a sanitary sewer element.

Sewer service is not guaranteed by adoption of this amendment since it represents only one part of the permit process and other issues may need to be addressed. Inclusion in the sewer service area as a result of adoption of this amendment does not eliminate the need to obtain all necessary permits, approvals or certifications required by any Federal, State, County or municipal review agency with jurisdiction over this project/activity.

10/14/20 Date	SIGNED
	Kimberly Cenno, Bureau Chief
	Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration and Standards Division of Water Monitoring and Standards