

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

AMENDMENT TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT  
PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on **OCT 30 1998**, 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), an amendment to the Sussex County Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The amendment consists of a Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) for Vernon Township. The WMP identifies the existing service area of the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA) Upper Wallkill Valley Water Pollution Control Plant (Upper Wallkill WPCP) including the Vernon Valley/Great Gorge/Action Park recreation areas, and the Great Gorge, Black Creek, Mountainside and Stonehill residential developments. The WMP also identifies a proposed expanded sewer service area that includes some commercial areas adjacent to the existing service area and a large portion of the proposed Vernon Town Center. Since the anticipated wastewater flow from maximum buildout of the existing and expanded service area is 410,000 gallons per day (gpd), unused allocation will need to be obtained for any flow above 380,000 gpd (current SCMUA flow allocation to Vernon Township). The Upper Wallkill WPCP discharges to the Wallkill River. No expansion of the plant is proposed as part of this WMP.

The WMP identifies the service areas of other existing wastewater facilities within the Township including: Seasons Resort facility (discharge to Black Creek with seasonal discharge to ground water); the sewage treatment plant serving the Rolling Hills Primary School, Lounsberry Hollow Middle School, and Cedar Mountain Primary School (discharge to Lounsberry Hollow Brook); Vernon Township High School facility (discharge to ground water); a number of existing facilities which discharge less than 20,000 gpd to ground water; and the general service area for ground water discharge facilities with planned wastewater flows of less than 2,000 gpd. The WMP identifies the service areas for proposed ground water discharge facilities with planned wastewater flows of less than 20,000 gpd, but not exceeding 722 gpd/acre per the Sussex County Ground Water Discharge Pre-Screening Methodology (including the Wolf Paw Golf Course Club House, Hidden Valley Hotel/Lodge, portions of the northern industrial area, and some areas identified for commercial recreation and high density residential development). In addition, the WMP identifies "nondegradation areas" which include public and private lands located within the watershed of an FW1 (fresh water 1) stream. These areas are subject to the antidegradation requirements of the Surface Water Quality Standards and the Ground Water Quality Standards.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the June 1, 1998 New Jersey Register, May 31 and June 1, 1998 New Jersey Herald, and June 12, 1998 Star Ledger. Comments on the amendment were received during the public comment period and are summarized below with DEP's responses. Minor changes to the WMP were made as noted in the below responses.

<u>Commenter</u>	<u>Affiliation (if one provided)</u>
1. Thomas Varro, Cerenzio & Panaro	SCMUA
2. Carol Gunn-Kadish	
3. Daniele Cervino	Great Gorge Resorts, Inc.

*See file for  
entire notice/  
comment-response  
included.*