

NOTE: THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL. THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE DECEMBER 16, 2019 NEW JERSEY REGISTER. SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THIS TEXT AND THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE AMENDMENT, THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL GOVERN.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF WATER MONITORING AND STANDARDS

Proposed Amendment to the Atlantic County Water Quality Management Plan

Public Notice

Take notice that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is seeking public comment on a proposed amendment to the Atlantic County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan in accordance with 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 proposed amendment (Program Interest No. 435445, Activity No. AMD170002) would allow for an increase in the permitted flow of the Buena Borough Municipal Utility Authority (BBMUA) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), NJPDES No. NJ0021717, from 0.4 million gallons per day (MGD) to 0.6 MGD. The proposed amendment does not include any changes to the BBMUA STP sewer service area (SSA) delineated on the map entitled "Future Wastewater Service Area (FWSA), Atlantic County New Jersey" adopted on November 6, 2013 (45 N.J.R. 2499(a)) and amended by the Pinelands Future Wastewater Service Area (FWSA) map amendment adopted on January 15, 2016 (48 N.J.R. 448(a)). The proposed amendment has been reviewed pursuant to the Water Quality Management Planning rules at N.J.A.C. 7:15. This notice represents the Department's determination that the amendment is compliant with the regulatory criteria at N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.3, 3.5 and 4.5, as described below.

This amendment is being proposed to implement, in part, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) executed between the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, the BBMUA, and the Township of Buena Vista

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on March 27, 2007 and amended on May 26, 2011. Over the past several years, the BBMUA has worked with the Pinelands Commission to investigate alternative methods of wastewater discharge from the existing wastewater treatment plant. Extensive hydrogeologic and geologic studies were performed to determine if wastewater discharge to ground would be a feasible alternative to the continued discharge into the Deep Run Creek. Based on analysis of soil test boring data and computer modeling, it was concluded that the soils at the subject parcel site were not suitable for wastewater discharge to the ground since it was likely that significant ponding and overflow of wastewater would occur. Therefore, the Pinelands Commission agreed that wastewater can continue to be discharged into the Deep Run Creek under the condition that the BBMUA installs and operates Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) treatment technology in order to reduce pollutant concentrations in the existing discharge. Once installed and in operation, the Pinelands Commission would support an increase in the BBMUA permitted flow.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.2(c), a change in the permitted flow not already addressed in a WQM plan requires a review of the WQM plan. As part of this review, a Buildout Analysis (dated April 30, 2019) of the SSA delineated in the current WQM Plan was submitted to the Department on behalf of the BBMUA. The analysis found that existing flows conveyed to the BBMUA STP are approaching the permitted capacity of the facility. The BBMUA submitted a Capacity Analysis Report to the Department's Division of Water Quality on September 12, 2019, in accordance with the requirements at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.5(b)6 and N.J.A.C. 7:14A-22.16. The report identified several alternatives for addressing the facility's capacity deficit, including water conservation measures, inflow and infiltration reduction, capital improvements and maximizing current capacity. The strategy for maximizing current capacity includes applying for a modification of the NJPDES Permit to increase the permitted flow from 0.4 MGD to 0.6

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MGD. The report stipulates that the BBMUA STP is capable of effectively treating up to 1.5 MGD of wastewater and still meeting current effluent limitations. The strategy for capital improvements includes installation of the MBR treatment technology identified in the MOA. The MBR treatment technology was installed and the BBMUA STP has consistently met Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus discharge limits specified in the MOA since 2013. Based on successful operation of the MBR treatment technology and the additional deficit reduction strategies, including additional inflow and infiltration reduction measures, the Department determined that the permitted flow at the BBMUA STP can increase to 0.6 MGD and still meet applicable NJPDES permit effluent limits. On April 16, 2018, the Pinelands Commission issued a letter that endorsed the BBMUA's plan amendment application in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(h).

The proposed amendment will not add any acreage to the SSA; therefore, the Department has determined that the regulatory criteria at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(d) through (h) do not apply.

This notice is to inform the public that a plan amendment has been proposed for the Atlantic County WQM Plan and that a public hearing will be held by the Atlantic County Department of Planning and Regional Development on January 22, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. in the Stillwater Building, Freeholder Meeting Room, 201 South Shore Road, Northfield, New Jersey. The Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, as the designated planning agency for Atlantic County, requires that a public hearing be held for all WQM plan amendments. All information related to the WQM Plan and the proposed amendment is located at:

The Atlantic County Department of Regional Planning and Development
Route 9 and Dolphin Avenue
P.O. Box 719

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Northfield, New Jersey 08225-0719

AND

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Water Monitoring and Standards

Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration and Standards

Water Quality Management Planning Program

P.O. Box 420, Mail Code 401-041

401 East State Street

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

The Department's file is available for inspection between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. An appointment to inspect the file may be arranged by calling the Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration and Standards at (609) 633-1441.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed amendment to the Department at the address cited above. Comments should reference Program Interest No. 435445, Activity No. AMD170002 and must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this public notice or within 15 days of the public hearing, as described below. A copy of the written comments should also be sent to:

Mr. Anthony Esochaghi

Atlantic County Department of Regional Planning and Development

P.O. Box 719

Northfield, New Jersey 08225-0719

AND

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Mr. Dennis Yoder

Remington and Vernick Engineers

232 Kings Highway East

Haddonfield, New Jersey 08033

Interested persons may request in writing that the Department hold a non-adversarial public hearing on the amendment, in addition to the County hearing, or extend the public comment period specified in this notice. Such requests should reference Program Interest No. 435445, Activity No. AMD170002 and must demonstrate sufficient public interest for the public hearing or extension of the comment period, as defined under N.J.A.C. 7:1D-5.2(d). The request must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this notice to the Department address cited above. Should the Department decide to hold a public hearing, additional notice will be published in a future New Jersey Register and the public comment period will be extended to 15 days after the public hearing date. All comments submitted prior to the close of the comment period shall be considered by the Department before making a final decision on the proposed amendment.

Sewer service or facility expansion 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. Approval of this amendment would 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.

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11/4/19
Date _____

SIGNED

Bruce S. Friedman, Director

Division of Water Monitoring and Standards