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## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

### **WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

#### **DIVISION OF WATER MONITORING AND STANDARDS**

##### **Proposed Amendment to the Sussex 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 site specific amendment to the Sussex County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan and Sussex County Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) in accordance with the New Jersey Water Quality Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 58:11A-et seq., and the Water Quality Management Planning rules, N.J.A.C. 7:15. The proposed amendment (Program Interest No. 435459, Activity No. AMD180002) would expand the sewer service area (SSA) of the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA) by 0.09 acres to serve a proposed restroom building and an existing concession building on a portion of Block 26001, Lot 103, Sparta Township, Sussex County. The proposed project, identified as "Sparta High School Athletic Complex", includes a new bathroom building that would serve a stadium of 1773 seats and an existing concession stand and would generate a projected wastewater flow of 5,319 gallons per day (gpd) based on flow calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3 to be received by the Upper Wallkill Wastewater Treatment Facility (NJPDES No. NJ0035483). 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, 4.4 and 4.5, as described below.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.3(b), site specific amendments are limited to modifications of the eligible sewer service area 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 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 will add less than 100 acres and will generate less than 20,000 gpd of wastewater; therefore, update of the wastewater treatment capacity analysis is not required.

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 Sparta Township, which is not a Highlands conforming municipality as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:15-1.5, since it has not had its Regional Master Plan (RMP) conformance petition approved by the Highlands Council or adopted a planning area conformance petition ordinance and land use ordinance amendments consistent with that approval. Pursuant to Executive Order 114, the Highlands Council reviewed the proposed amendment for consistency with the Net Water Availability provisions of the RMP and issued a letter dated June 14, 2018 stating that, although the proposed project is located in an area of a HUC-14 subwatershed identified as being in a deficit of Net Water Availability, because the referenced subwatershed was part of a pilot study for a Water Use and Conservation Management Plan (WUCMP) and the Township was progressing from the pilot study to a municipal wide WUCMP through Plan Conformance the project is considered consistent.

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 Regional Master Plan, 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 sewer service areas, except as otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(i) through (l): environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) identified under N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e) as 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) through (g) and made the following findings:

- The Department determined that the expanded sewer service area does not contain any areas mapped as threatened and endangered 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 expanded sewer service area 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 expanded sewer service area 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 expanded sewer service area 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 expanded sewer service area does not contain any Coastal Fringe Planning Areas, Coastal Rural Planning Areas, or Coastal Environmentally Sensitive Planning Areas mapped on the CAFRA Planning Map based on the "CAFRA Layers" 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 site based on the USEPA list of New Jersey Counties with ESA Grant Conditions at

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/environmentally-sensitive-area-esa-grant-condition-waiver-program-region-2> 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 zoning ordinances and future land uses shown in municipal or county master plans and determined that the expanded sewer service area is consistent with land uses allowed by local zoning and the county and local master plans.

This notice is to inform the public that an amendment to the Sussex County WQM Plan has been proposed. All information related to the proposed amendment is located at:

Sussex County Division of Planning and Economic Development  
One Spring Street  
Newton, New Jersey 07860

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 through the Open Public Records Act. Requests can be made on-line at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/opra/>.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed amendment to the Department at the address cited above. Comments should reference Program Interest No. 435439,

Activity No. AMD180002 and must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this public notice. A copy of the written comments should also be sent to:

Sussex County Division of Planning and Economic Development  
One Spring Street  
Newton, New Jersey 07860

Interested persons may also request in writing that the Department hold a non-adversarial public hearing on the amendment or extend the public comment period specified in this notice. Such requests should reference Program Interest No. 435437, Activity No. AMD180001 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 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 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 the approval 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.

\_\_\_\_01/21/2020\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_SIGNED\_\_\_\_\_

Bruce S. Friedman, Director

Division of Water Monitoring and Standards