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## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

### **WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

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

### **Proposed Amendment to the Lower Raritan/Middlesex 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 Lower Raritan/Middlesex 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, identified as Suez Water Princeton Meadows Sewage Treatment Plant Expansion (Program Interest No. 435463, Activity No. AMD190001) would update the Plainsboro Township Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) in regard to the Suez Water Princeton Meadows (SWPM) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit No. NJ0024104 to allow for an increase in the permitted flow of the STP from 1.64 million gallons per day (MGD) to 1.70 MGD. The amendment does not propose changes to the SWPM STP sewer service area (SSA) delineated on the map entitled "Map 3 Middlesex County Future Wastewater Service Area (FWSA)" adopted on March 11, 2015 (47 N.J.R. 733(b)).

This amendment is being proposed to update the Suez Water Princeton Meadows description in the Existing Conditions section of the Plainsboro Township WMP to reflect an increase in flow to the SWPM STP. The existing SWPM STP accepts domestic wastewater from portions of Plainsboro Township and is currently permitted to discharge up to 1.64 million MGD of treated effluent to an unnamed tributary

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of Cranbury Brook, classified as FW2-NT. The proposed increase will enable the facility to meet its limitations for ammonia and total phosphorus imposed through a new NJPDES permit in accordance with the allocations set forth in the "Total Maximum Daily Load Report For The Non-Tidal Raritan River Basin Addressing Total Phosphorus, Dissolved Oxygen, pH and Total Suspended Solids Impairments" (Raritan TMDL), which was adopted on May 24, 2016.

The new facility will be constructed within the same site as the current facility and will retain the effluent discharge location to the unnamed tributary of Cranbury Brook.

This notice represents the Department's determination that the proposed 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. 7:15-3.2(a) and (c), a change in the permitted flow not already addressed in a WQM plan requires a review of the WQM plan and that the Department shall not issue a permit or approval that conflicts with an adopted areawide plan. The proposed amendment does not expand the existing SSA, therefore the regulatory criteria at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4 are not applicable. N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.5(b) requires that the existing and future wastewater management needs of each sewer service area of a domestic treatment works, or industrial wastewater facility that receives wastewater from outside the industrial facility boundaries, shall be identified and evaluated in a wastewater treatment capacity analysis. Pursuant to 7:15-4.5(b)1, for the assigned sewer service area, the applicant shall identify the existing and projected future flows that will be generated, the procedures by which to do so are laid forth in 7:15-4.5(b)1i. The analysis was performed using 10 years of NJPDES Discharge Monitoring Report (January 2009 through December 2018) flow data which found that the presently adopted sewer service

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area at build out would yield a projected flow of 1.693 MGD (1.477 MGD existing flow + 0.216 MGD future flow = 1.693 MGD build out flow). The projected future flow is rounded to 1.70 MGD.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 4.5 (b)8, the applicant submitted an antidegradation analysis in accordance with the antidegradation policies in the Surface Water Quality Standards at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.5(d) to the Department for review. It was subsequently approved and in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-1 et seq. the Department will revoke and reissue the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Discharge to Surface Water (DSW) Permit NJ0024104 to incorporate the facility's expanded flow from 1.64 MGD to 1.70 MGD, after the completion and construction of the new wastewater facility.

This notice is to inform the public that a plan amendment has been proposed for the Lower Raritan/Middlesex County WQM Plan. All information related to the WQM Plan and the proposed amendment is located at:

Middlesex County Department of Planning

75 Bayard Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

AND

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Water Monitoring and Standards

Bureau of Environmental Analysis Assessment and Standards

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

401 East State Street

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

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

The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, as the designated planning agency, requires that a public hearing be held for all WQM plan amendments under its jurisdiction. A public hearing will be held by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders at 5:30 p.m. on December 9, 2020 via audio conference call **only**. The public may call the following number and use the conference I.D. number to be conferenced into the meeting: (732) 515-5844; conference I.D. 498 695 732#. For additional information, please see the Middlesex County Water Resources Association web page at:

<http://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/Government/Departments/IM/Pages/Planning/Environmental%20Sustainability/Office-of-Planning---Division%20of%20Environmental%20Sustainability%20--%20Water-Resources-Association.aspx>

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed amendment to the Department at the address cited above or at the email: [wqmp.publiccomments@dep.nj.gov](mailto:wqmp.publiccomments@dep.nj.gov) and to the Middlesex County at the following address:

Ms. Mirah Becker  
Middlesex County Department of Planning  
75 Bayard Street – 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

Comments should reference Program Interest No. 435463, Activity No. AMD190001 and must be submitted within 15 days after the public hearing.

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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. 435463, Activity No. AMD190001 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 Department's public hearing date. All comments submitted prior to the close of the comment period shall be considered by the county and 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 agencies with jurisdiction over this project/activity.

8/25/20

SIGNED

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Kimberly Cenno, Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration and Standards  
Division of Water Monitoring and Standards