

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

REVISION TO THE LOWER DELAWARE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT
PLAN

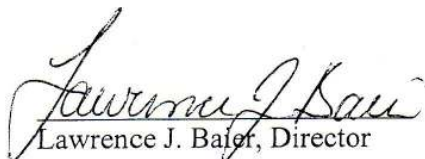
TAKE NOTICE that on **JUL 23 2009**, pursuant to the provisions of the Water Quality Planning Act, N.J.S.A.58:11A-1 et seq, and the Statewide Water Quality Management Planning rules, N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5, a revision to the Lower Delaware Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) was adopted by the Department. This revision, submitted on behalf of F & S Produce Company, Inc., identifies service area for two of its fresh-cut produce operations located in Deerfield Township, Cumberland County. The first site, which is known as FS1, is located at Block 67/ Lot 1.01 along Bridgeton Avenue. The FS1 facility conducts cutting and packaging of fresh fruits and/or vegetables as well as pickling operations. Process wastewater to be discharged to groundwater includes wash water as well as a minimal amount of water treatment system filter backwash water. Sanitary wastewater serving 100 employees at FS1 is discharged to an onsite septic system with a design flow of less than 2,000 gallons per day (gpd). Renewal of NJPDES Permit # NJ0068756, which becomes effective on August 1, 2009, allows process wastewater generated from the operations at FS1 to be discharged to a subsurface disposal field consisting of concrete seepage pits. Prior to the August 1, 2009 renewal of NJPDES Permit # NJ0068756, process wastewater was permitted to discharge to a spray irrigation system. This revision updates the Lower Delaware WQMP by increasing the wastewater planning flow at FS1 to a daily maximum of 100,000 gallons per day (gpd). The spray discharge system at FS1 will be abandoned following the receipt of the necessary approvals, construction and operation of the seepage structures.


The second site, known as FS2, is located at Block 72/ Lot 12 at 730 Lebanon Road. In addition to cutting and packaging fresh fruits and vegetables, the FS2 facility also conducts steaming and flash freezing operations. Process wastewater to be discharged to groundwater includes wash water as well as a minimal amount of water treatment system filter backwash water. Sanitary wastewater serving 120 year-round employees as well as 13 seasonal employees is discharged to two onsite septic systems, both with design flows of less than 2,000 gpd. Renewal of NJPDES Permit # NJ0051055, which becomes effective on August 1, 2009, allows process wastewater generated from the operations at FS2 to be discharged to a subsurface disposal field consisting of concrete seepage pits. Prior to the August 1, 2009 renewal, the permit allowed wastewater to be discharged to a spray irrigation field or to an underground injection area when spraying was prohibitive. The 72,000 gpd current permitted flow, in accordance with Administrative Consent Order No. NEA080002-4671, effective March 25, 2009, is considered to be a monthly average flow. This revision updates the Lower Delaware WQMP by increasing the wastewater planning flow at FS2 to a daily maximum of 250,000 gpd. The spray discharge system at FS2 will be abandoned following the receipt of the necessary approvals, construction and operation of the seepage pits.

N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(b)4i allows an increase in flow (including both increased loadings and no increased loadings) from industrial treatment works where no change in wastewater service area or discharge type (for example, discharge to surface water or ground water) is proposed, if the Department determines, based on its assessment, that the project has demonstrated adequate water supply in accordance with the most recent New Jersey State Water Supply Plan for the proposed additional flow and that the project complies with the environmental standards established at N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24 and 5.25, as applicable, and that no significant individual or cumulative impacts will occur to environmentally sensitive areas or other natural resources (such as water supplies) due to the proposed revision (individually or in combination with past revisions in the area). The Department may process such revisions prior to or simultaneously with a NJPDES permit for the same change in flow.

To satisfy the requirements of the environmental standards established at N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24, the service area for both the FS1 and FS2 sites shall be limited to the existing building area and existing impervious cover area as shown in the most recent 2007 aerals. The reduced service area excludes potential habitat as identified on the Landscape Project mapping for the State Threatened Red-Headed Woodpecker, Vesper Sparrow, and Savannah Sparrow. For these habitat areas to be re-included in the service area, a Habitat Suitability Determination would have to be completed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.26.

Compliance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(b)4i and 5.25 concerning water supply is further demonstrated by the implementation of the new seepage pits at FS1 and FS2 and the abandonment of spray discharge at both sites. Water drawn from the four existing Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer System wells for process purposes will be returned to the aquifer, decreasing consumptive water loss at both sites.


Lawrence J. Baier, Director
Division of Watershed Management
Department of Environmental Protection


Date