

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

AMENDMENT TO THE LOWER RARITAN/MIDDLESEX COUNTY WATER
QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on **JAN 05 1996**, 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. 7:15-3.4), an amendment to the Lower Raritan/Middlesex County Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department). This amendment updates the Plainsboro Township Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) with regard to the wastewater discharge from Firmenich Incorporated, a food flavoring and fragrance production facility located in Plainsboro Township. The combined sanitary and industrial projected wastewater flow is increased from 0.030 million gallons per day (mgd) previously specified in the WMP to 0.040 mgd to accommodate flow from expanded office, laboratory and manufacturing operations at the site. In addition, the existing spray irrigation field is proposed to be eliminated to accommodate construction of additional buildings, and the total projected flow will be discharged to the Millstone River (classified in the Surface Water Quality Standards as FW2-NT). No expansion of the service area is proposed.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on October 16, 1995. Comments on this amendment were received during the public comment period and are summarized below with the Department's response.

COMMENT: In response to the proposed amendment, the Elizabethtown Water Company and the Water Users Association requested that the Elizabethtown Water Company be notified by Firmenich Incorporated in the event of any bypasses, upsets or serious excursions of the discharge permit that may jeopardize public health or cause damage to the environment. This reporting requirement would be in addition to the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) requirements specified in N.J.A.C. 7:14A.

RESPONSE: The Department supports the above request. Therefore, as part of the permitting process, an additional reporting requirement will be included in the NJPDES Discharge to Surface Water permit for the Firmenich sewage treatment plant. The additional reporting requirement will specify notification of the Elizabethtown Water Company by Firmenich Incorporated in the event of any of the above problems.

This amendment represents only one part of the permit process and other issues will be addressed prior to final permit issuance. Additional issues which were not reviewed in conjunction with this amendment but which may need to be addressed may include, but are not limited to, the following: antidegradation; effluent limitations; water quality analysis; exact locations and designs of future treatment works (pump stations, interceptors, sewers, outfalls, wastewater treatment plants); and development in wetlands,

flood prone areas, designated Wild and Scenic River areas, or other environmentally sensitive areas which are subject to regulation under Federal or State statutes or rules.



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Office of Environmental
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1/5/96

Date

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