

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

REVISION TO THE NORTHEAST WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

TAKE NOTICE that on **APR 09 2001**, 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 Northeast Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the Department. The revision will modify the Rockaway Valley Regional Sewerage Authority (RVRSA) Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) map delineation of the future sewer service area of the RVRSA Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). Plate 3-B of this WMP inadvertently omitted from the USGS quadrangle map delineation of the WMP future sewer service area a small triangular shaped piece of the property in Rockaway Township, bounded by West Dewey Avenue on the north and the municipal boundary of Wharton Borough on the east and Jefferson Township to the west. This revision corrects Plate 3-B to include contiguous Block 11505, Lots 1 – 8 and Block 11506, Lots 1, 2, 4, and 5. Inclusion of the subject area within the RVRSA sewer service area will eliminate the use of the existing failing septic system serving the Morris County garage located on Lewis Avenue and West Dewey Street at Block 11505, Lot 1 in Rockaway Township, Morris County. The additional service area is less than ten acres and the wastewater flow is approximately 3,600 gallons per day (gpd). The garage is situated adjacent to the RVRSA interceptor sewer. The flow projection is based upon the use of 300 gpd per single family home for all lots with the exception of the Morris County garage, which will generate approximately 660 gpd of wastewater. The future service population associated with the subject area is approximately 30 people.

The RVRSA STP is permitted to discharge 12 million gallons per day (mgd) under New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System – Discharge to Surface Water (NPDES-DSW) Permit No. NJ0022349. The RVRSA STP discharges to the Rockaway River below the Jersey City (Boonton) Reservoir. This revision would increase the average daily flow by approximately 3,600 gpd. The March 9, 2000 amendment to RVRSA WMP identifies a projected wastewater flow of 13.67 mgd for the RVRSA STP. The flow of 13.67 mgd was calculated using the 1998 annual average flow of 9.76 mgd plus future committed and projected flows for each municipality served by RVRSA. Although, the March 2000 WMP amendment and this subsequent revision project a need of 13.67 mgd, no expansion or re-rating of the RVRSA STP above the current NPDES permit condition of 12 mgd was approved under the amendment nor through this revision. The projected 13.67 mgd flow will remain the same. The Department identified the following three options for RVRSA to pursue if projected wastewater flow exceeds 12 mgd:

- a) The RVRSA future sewer service area must be reduced in size, or municipalities must approve changes in anticipated development density within the future sewer service area, so that the resulting sewer service area will have a total projected flow of 12 mgd or less; or
- b) RVRSA must provide complete justification for providing a larger service area than can reasonably be served with an STP of 12 mgd, and the WMP must clearly state that the combination of existing plus committed average flows from the sewer service area will be no greater than 12 mgd through the WMP planning period; or

- c) RVRSA must provide complete justification for an expansion/re-rating of the RVRSA STP (consistent with the requirements identified in #3 below) to a capacity sufficient to meet the flow projection.

In consideration of the above, DEP approved the March 2000 RVRSA WMP with the following conditions, which are applicable to this revision:

1. Projected Need vs. Permit Condition - While the WMP identifies a projected need of 13.67 mgd, no expansion or re-rating of the RVRSA STP above the current NJPDES permit condition of 12 mgd is approved as part of this WMP.

Since the projected need for sewer service is greater than 12 mgd, the RVRSA still must determine which of the options outlined above is preferable. Once this decision is made, RVRSA will need to pursue a separate amendment to the WMP to address this issue. In addition, the RVRSA WMP has identified, for the purpose of flow calculations only, a proposed reduction in the sewer service area in Randolph Township. If RVRSA is not yet ready to proceed with its amendment to address flow issues, and Randolph Township desires to proceed in the interim with an amendment to specifically delineate its proposed reduced sewer service area, DEP would consider a separate amendment to the WMP for Randolph Township. Such amendment should address the existing and proposed sewer service areas to the Morris-Butterworth STP as well as the RVRSA STP.

2. Future Sewer Service Area Changes – DEP will not approve any proposals for RVRSA sewer service area expansion or reconfiguration (i.e., to increase the sewer service area in one area and reduce it in another) until such time as the flow issue identified in #1 above is adequately addressed through an approved amendment to the WMP. This restriction on future sewer service area changes applies to amendments submitted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4 as well as revisions submitted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(b)4ii & v.

3. Expansion/Re-rating of the RVRSA STP – DEP will not approve a subsequent WMP amendment allowing an increase in the permitted capacity of the RVRSA STP beyond 12 mgd unless the amendment includes a conclusive and comprehensive demonstration by RVRSA that:

- a) The hydrologic conditions of the Rockaway River watershed and major tributaries will not be changed in a manner that increases watershed flooding or decreases the safe yield of the Jersey City (Boonton) Reservoir, due to development or sewerage within the watershed related to the STP capacity increase;
- b) Ground water resources will not be overdrawn due to new sewage generating activities served by the increased STP capacity, recharge loss from increased impervious cover, and/or additional withdrawals; and,
- c) The water quality of the Rockaway River and major tributaries both upstream and downstream of the Jersey City (Boonton) reservoir will not be degraded by point or nonpoint source discharges related to the STP capacity increase.

This revision 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 revision but which may need to be addressed may include, but are not limited to, the following: exact locations and designs of future treatment works (pump stations, interceptors, sewers, disposal beds); and development in wetlands, flood prone areas or other environmentally sensitive areas which are subject to regulation under federal or State statutes or rules.



Mary Sheil
Director
Division of Watershed Management
Department of Environmental Protection

4/9/01
Date