

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED AMENDMENT TO THE NORTHEAST WATER QUALITY
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on November 21, 2006, 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 Northeast Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department). This amendment, submitted on behalf of the Township of Morris, is for the adoption of the Morris Township Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) which will also amend the Hanover Sewerage Authority (HSA) WMP, the Florham Park Sewerage Authority (FPSA) WMP, the Parsippany-Troy Hills WMP, the Rockaway Valley Regional Sewerage Authority (RVRSA) WMP, and the Town of Morristown WMP.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.11(b), upon adoption of this amendment, wastewater management planning for the portions of the Borough of Florham Park, the Borough of Madison, the Borough of Morris Plains, the Township of Harding, the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills, the Township of Randolph, and the Town of Morristown which are within the Future Sewer Service Area of the Woodland Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) or the Butterworth STP is assumed by the Township of Morris as the wastewater management planning agency. In addition, WMP responsibility for the portions of the Township of Morris which are

in the Future Sewer Service Area of the Morristown STP is transferred from the Township of Morris to the Town of Morristown, WMP responsibility for the portions of the Township of Morris which are in the Future Sewer Service Area of the HSA STP are transferred from the Township of Morris to the HSA, and WMP responsibility for the portions of the Township of Morris which are in the Future Sewer Service Area of the FPSA STP are transferred from Township of Morris to the FPSA. WMP responsibility for the remainder of the Township of Morris remains with the Township of Morris. This proposed amendment changes the Sewer Service Areas of the Butterworth STP and the Woodland STP, and the Sewer Service Areas of the HSA and the FPSA STP within Morris Township.

The future wastewater planning flow from the Woodland STP service area is projected to increase to 1.669 million gallons per day (MGD) from the present flow of 1.15 MGD. This effluent flow is discharged into the Loantaka Brook (FW2-NT) under New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Discharge to Surface Water (DSW) Permit Number NJ0024929. The future wastewater planning flow from the expanded Butterworth STP service area is currently projected to increase from 1.75 MGD to 2.507 MGD. The Butterworth STP effluent flow is discharged into the Whippany River (FW2-NT) under the NJPDES DSW Permit Number NJ0024911. (Please note: The final projection for the Future Wastewater Planning Flow from the Butterworth STP has been decreased from the 2.552 MGD flow projection included in the Morris Township WMP previously available for review during the public comment period. This is a

result of the Department's disapproval of the site-specific amendment for Block 4501, Lot 2.01, which had been projected to contribute 0.045 MGD to the future wastewater planning flow). No physical expansion of either the Woodland STP or the Butterworth STP is proposed as part of this WMP. This WMP also addresses other existing Wastewater Treatment Facilities and Service Areas within the WMP Planning Area.

It should also be noted that the future wastewater planning flows included in the Morris Township WMP's preliminary notice were incorrectly based on inter-municipal contract limits (1.68 MGD for Woodland STP and 2.741 MGD for Butterworth STP) rather than the future wastewater planning flows justified by the Township's Sewer Service Area Build Out Analysis. The Department is utilizing the correct future wastewater planning flows, as justified by the Township's Sewer Service Area Build Out Analysis, in this public notice; however, this is not intended to reflect any change to the WMP document itself.

This proposed amendment has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 109 (2000) and N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.18. As part of this process, the applicant has performed a Nonpoint Source Pollutant Loading Analysis, Consumptive Water Use Analysis, Groundwater Quality Analysis, Riparian Corridor Analysis, Endangered and Threatened Species Analysis, and Environmental Constraint Analysis. Nonpoint Source Pollutant Loading has been addressed through the adoption of a Municipal Stormwater Ordinance in accordance with N.J.A.C 7:8.

The Consumptive Water Use Analysis indicates that sufficient capacity currently exists from the Southeast Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (SMCMUA), the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA), or from private wells to provide potable water for the projected build-out of the portions of Morris Township and those of the surrounding municipalities within the Morris Township WMP planning area. The results of the Recharge-Based Nitrate-Dilution Model for New Jersey, which was utilized to address the Groundwater Quality Analysis, indicate that the minimum required lot size to maintain groundwater quality is between 1.7 and 2.5 acres. Current zoning exceeds this requirement in all areas proposed to remain on individual subsurface sewage disposal systems (ISSDS) (Discharge to Groundwater [DGW] less than 2,000 GPD). The Riparian Corridor Analysis has been addressed through the adoption of a Municipal Riparian Corridor Ordinance. The Endangered and Threatened Species Analysis has been addressed through a modification to the Township's existing Environmental Impact Ordinance which now includes language to address Threatened and Endangered Species habitat classified as Rank 3, 4, or 5 in accordance with the Department's Landscape Project Mapping. The Environmental Constraints Analysis was utilized in the creation of the future flow projections for wastewater treatment facilities included in this WMP.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on November 21, 2005 at 37 N.J.R. 4473(b). One comment on this amendment was received

during the public comment period and is summarized below with the Department's response.

Comment: The expansion of the Woodland Sewage Treatment Plant Service Area from 1.15 MGD to 1.67 MGD is inappropriate, given that the treatment plant discharges to Loantaka Brook, and water quality issues in Loantaka Brook have been noted in the past. (Comment submitted by Julia Somers, representing the Great Swamp Watershed Association, and Abigail Fair, representing the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions)

Response: The expansion of the Woodland Sewage Treatment Plant Service Area from 1.15 MGD to 1.67 MGD represents the maximum projected flow at full build out of the approved service area, and is in compliance with the sewage treatment plant's current permitted treatment capacity of 2.0 MGD. At this time, there is no established correlation between the Woodland Sewage Treatment Plant and the water quality issues in Loantaka Brook.

This amendment represents only one part of the permit process and other issues may need to be addressed prior to final permit issuance. Additional issues which may need to be addressed may include, but are not limited to, the following: compliance with stormwater regulations; 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.

Lawrence J. Bair

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

November 21, 2006

Date