

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED AMENDMENT TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on **MAR 10 2005**, 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 Sussex County-Wide Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) and the Sussex County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department). This amendment was submitted by the Sussex County Department of Engineering and Planning, on behalf of Lafayette Township. This amendment allows for the expansion of the Lafayette Federated Church, located on Route 15, Block 18, Lot 10-B, situated on approximately 13 acres, in Lafayette Township, Sussex County. The existing church structure is proposed to be expanded to increase the seating capacity from the current 600 seats to a total of 1003 seats. Utilizing the Department's design flow criteria (N.J.A.C. 7:9A-7.4) of three (3) gallons per day (gpd) per seat, this expansion requires the wastewater system to be designed to accommodate a total flow of 3009 gpd thereby requiring a NJPDES-DGW Permit and a WMP amendment designating this activity as an individual subsurface disposal system for the above flow. The Lafayette Federated Church currently utilizes a septic system consisting of three septic tanks and two leach fields. The proposed wastewater facilities design calls for the removal of the three existing septic tanks and the installation of three new tanks in a different location as replacements. The existing fields will remain in service and a new disposal field will be added to accommodate the increased flow.

This proposed amendment has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 109 (2000) (EO 109) and N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.18. Due to its scope, the proposed project was not subject to the additional environmental analysis required by EO-109.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4 and the Sussex County Water Quality Management Plan Amendment Procedures, a public hearing for this amendment was noticed on August 2, 2004; in the New Jersey Register at 36 N.J.R. 3592-3593, the New Jersey Herald and the Star Ledger. Sussex County held a public hearing on September 8, 2004 and public comment was accepted by the Sussex County Division of Planning until September 23, 2004. The Sussex County Division of Planning prepared a summary of the written comment by Barbara Sachau that was entered into the record, considered this comment and on January 12, 2005, the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders approved the amendment in accordance with the Sussex County Water Quality Management Plan Amendment Procedures.

Summary of Comment Entered Into The Record And Response:

Comment:

The commenter submitted a written comment stating the expansion is opposed because the size of the septic system is too large and because the amount of wastewater should be handled by a sewage system. The commenter also wrote the comment period should be extended without providing a reason for requesting the extension.

Response:

The proposed Lafayette Federated Church septic system expansion has been designed following the guidance provided by the Department, and in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:9A, which governs the design of septic systems. It is further noted that there is no regional sewer system in the area which the wastewater system could be connected to. The comment period is established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4 and the Sussex County Water Quality Management Plan Amendment Procedures. In this instance, the Department determined that the issue was fully detailed in the written submission and that an extension of the comment period would not be likely to raise issues or provide new information, data or findings that were not previously raised or provided during the initial comment period. The Department believes that adequate opportunity for comment was provided to all commenters on this amendment without the

necessity of an extension of the comment period.

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: 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. Baier

Lawrence J. Baier, Director

Division of Watershed Management

Department of Environmental Protection

March 10, 2005

Date