

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED AMENDMENT TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on January 17, 2007, 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 Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department). The amendment was submitted by the Sussex County Department of Engineering and Planning, Division of Planning. This amendment allows for the adoption of a discharge to ground water (DGW) wastewater treatment plant (WTP) to serve a majority of the Borough of Branchville and a portion of Frankford Township in Sussex County. The WTP will also serve the Methodist Manor Nursing Home, Frankford Township Elementary School and the Pines Nursing Home in Frankford Township and Selective Insurance Company of America and Franklin Mutual Insurance Company in the Borough of Branchville which will all abandon their individual subsurface sewage disposal systems (ISSDS) and DGW treatment plants and connect to the Branchville Borough WTP. The WTP will be owned and operated by the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA) under New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDDES) permit number NJ01410676 (pending). The WTP will have a planning flow of 212,000 gallons per day (gpd) to accommodate for the build-out capacity for the portions of the two municipalities within the sewer service area (SSA).

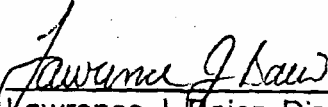
This amendment has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 109 (2000) and N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.18. The majority of Branchville is built-out with only small areas for growth remaining. The WTP will serve mostly existing development that presently has failing septic systems. The sewerage of the ISSDS will help reduce nonpoint source pollution to Dry Brook, which is classified

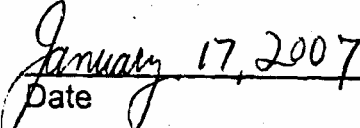
as FW2-NT and presently has a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for non-attainment of fecal coliform. There are no water supply concerns with the proposed project since the connection of the ISSDS to the WTP will allow for treated effluent to replenish ground water and ultimately base flow in the watershed. Also, the travel time from the point of disposal to the nearest public water supply well is in excess of twelve years which helps to ensure the quality of water for the public water supply. The SSA has been defined to preserve riparian corridors and threatened and endangered species habitat. As a result the SSA was delineated to largely exclude those areas to ensure their protection. Projects involving new sewage generating structures and disturbance within 50-feet of Culvers Creek or Dry Brook are inconsistent with the nonpoint source pollution control provisions of the WMP amendment and shall not be permitted by the Department. As delineated by the Landscape Project, both the Borough of Branchville and Frankford Township contain threatened and endangered species habitat. The sewer service area boundary was negotiated such that areas determined by the Department to be critical habitat for the identified species were excluded from the sewer service area. There is also a Natural Heritage Database Priority Site located within the vicinity of the WTP; however the Natural Heritage Program confirmed that the WTP will not negatively impact the species of concern within the site. The WTP is not included within the SSA.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on October 2, 2006 at 38 N.J.R. 4253(a) and no comments were received during 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: 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. Baier, Director  
Division of Watershed Management  
Department of Environmental Protection

  
Date