

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

AMENDMENT TO THE TRI-COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on **JAN 14 1998**, 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 Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department). This amendment was submitted on behalf of The Mount Holly Municipal Utilities Authority (MHMUA) and amends the MHMUA, Mount Laurel Municipal Utilities Authority (MLMUA) and Medford Township Wastewater Management Plans (WMP). The amendment identified a proposed expansion to the MHMUA sewage treatment plant (STP) from a wastewater planning flow of 7.277 million gallons per day (mgd) to 7.675 mgd. The MHMUA STP provides sewer service to all of Mount Holly Township and part of the following municipalities in Burlington County: Eastampton, Hainesport, Lumberton, Moorestown, and Westampton. The MHMUA STP discharges into North Branch Rancocas Creek which is classified in the Surface Water Quality Standards (N.J.A.C. 7:9B) as Fresh Water Two - Nontrout (FW2-NT) waters. Part of the projected wastewater planning flow number modification stems from a recalculation of the existing projected residential, commercial and industrial wastewater flows to be treated by the MHMUA STP over the next 17 years from the existing sewer service area. This recalculation is based on modifications to the Department standards for wastewater flow calculation adopted since the original MHMUA WMP adoption.

The projected wastewater flow increase will accommodate The Lumberton Township Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Ordinance 1995-17. The MHMUA STP sewer service area in Lumberton Township is expanded to include TDR receiving areas (RA/R-1, RA/R-2, RA/R-3, RA/R-4, and RA/R-5), the TDR transition area (RA/ST), new R-2.0 zone, airport industrial expansion (I-3), and one small rural agricultural (RA) parcel adjacent to Hainesport Township. Approximately 1,078 acres of land formerly zoned as industrial and now zoned RA, located west of Smithville Road and identified as part of Block 22, Lots 8, 9.01, and 11.01, is removed from MHMUA's sewer service area and is now identified as less than 2,000 gallons per day per unit individual subsurface sewage disposal area. An additional future population of 994 is projected for Lumberton due to the TDR Ordinance. The additional projected wastewater flow for Lumberton Township (including the recalculation identified above) is 0.424 mgd.

In addition to the above sewer service area expansion, the MHMUA STP will temporarily serve the Laurel Creek Golf Course Clubhouse site located at Block 203, Lot 1 in Mount Laurel Township, Burlington County. Approximately 7,000 gallons per day of wastewater will be treated by MHMUA. The land areas in Mount Laurel to be

temporarily served by MHMUA will remain in the planning area of the MLMUA WMP and ultimate treatment of the wastewater from this site will be by the MLMUA once a service connection is available.

The MHMUA WMP also identified for the first time the existing wastewater discharge to ground water of 3,400 gallons per day from the Burlington County Special Services School, Ark Road Campus. The school site is located at Block 39, Lot 2 in Lumberton Township and Block 202, Lot 1.02 in Medford Township, Burlington County. A future student population of 225 is anticipated with a corresponding wastewater flow projection of 4,500 gallons per day. The whole school site has been identified as an on-site subsurface sewage disposal system service area for wastewater planning flows of less than 20,000 gallons per day. The Medford portion of the school site will remain in the planning area of the Medford Township WMP.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on August 4, 1997. Comments on this amendment were received during the public comment period and are summarized below with the Department's responses.

Comment: On behalf of the Rancocas Valley Regional High School District Board of Education (Board), it was requested that the amendment be modified to provide sanitary sewer service to an approximately 100 acre farmland site owned by the Board at Block 51, Lots 3 and 3B in Lumberton Township. This site was purchased in 1975 for the purpose of construction of a new high school and/or athletic fields in the event the student population reaches a point where the current facilities do not have sufficient capacity to handle the growing school enrollment. In the event there are no such facilities constructed, the property shall not be designated for sewer treatment services. The MHMUA concurred with this comment.

Response: Block 51, Lots 3 and 3B were included within the proposed future sewer service area of the MHMUA STP in the original amendment proposal submitted by the MHMUA. However, this property was removed from the proposed sewer service area based on a Lumberton Township Planning Board approved change to remove this site from the future sewer service area. The proposed sewerage of the future school site would involve an estimated wastewater flow of 40,000 gallons per day, is not contiguous to the proposed sewer service area expansion, is in excess of 10 acres, and has not received explicit approval from Lumberton Township. Therefore, this proposal does not meet Department criteria for an insignificant change to the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) amendment. In order for this proposed change to the amendment to occur, the amendment would have to be noticed again with an additional public comment period. The MHMUA agreed that it would be more beneficial to move forward with the present amendment, as proposed, and address the proposed sewerage of the school site as a separate amendment action, if sewerage of the Board property remained a desirable option. Therefore, this site was not added to the future sewer service area of the MHMUA STP as part of this amendment.

Comment: The AEGIS Technical Representative of the Department of the Navy requested that the MHMUA WMP be amended to add the transmission of non-contact cooling water from the AEGIS Combat System Engineering Development Site (CSEDS) located at 300 Centerton Road at Block 7402, Lot 1, in Moorestown Township to the MHMUA STP in addition to domestic sanitary wastewater flows. The MHMUA WMP as amended January 18, 1995, identifies 6,000 gallons per day of domestic sanitary wastewater from CSEDS be directed to the MHMUA STP and 9,100 gallons per day of non-contact cooling water to continue to be discharged to ground water at CSEDS. The commenter states that a review of CSEDS water meter readings covering a two-year period ending July 29, 1997, indicates CSEDS is presently discharging approximately 2,000 gallons per day of domestic sanitary wastewater and 2,000 gallons per day of non-contact cooling water to septic and drywell systems. The commenter is now projecting a total future (2014) wastewater flow of 6,000 gallons per day. The MHMUA supported this comment.

Response: Block 7402, Lot 1 in Moorestown Township was not part of this WQMP amendment proposal other than the wastewater flow projection was recalculated down based on the above referenced change to the Department standards. Therefore, the MHMUA WMP now projects a future domestic wastewater flow of 15,075 gallons per day and 10,000 gallons per day of non-contact cooling water to continue to be discharged to ground water at CSEDS. The reduction of the total projected wastewater flow from 25,075 gallons per day to 6,000 gallons per day is a significant activity which the Department can not approve without reviewing the proposal, reducing the total projected wastewater planning flow of the MHMUA STP, and requesting a statement of consent from Moorestown Township. Therefore, the requested change to the MHMUA WMP for the CSEDS site was not made as part of this amendment.

Comment: The MHMUA commented that a tract of land bounded by Eayrestown Road (County Route 612), Landing Street (County Route 641) and the presently shown sewer service area "running on a diagonal between" these two roads, should be shown as future sewer service area of the MHMUA STP. Development plans for this tract include some lots in the sewer service area that will be serviced by sewer and a parallel street with lots that will not be serviced by sewer because they are outside of the MHMUA STP sewer service area. The MHMUA contends this is not practical planning particularly when the service area line diagonally runs between one road to the other rather than using the roads as a boundary and feels this site is ideal to provide sewer service. The MHMUA argues that three other tracts in Lumberton Township of approximately two acre lots such as this area all repeatedly call the MUA because of their septic problems and ask when are they going to be able to get sewer service. Of these tracts, one, Orchard View, is a long way from receiving sewer service due to its location across South Branch Rancocas Creek. However, the other two tracts, Marriott Farms and Sterling Chase, due to the number of complaints, have been included in this WMP amendment.

Response: Although the Department can agree with some of the MHMUA argument to provide sewer service to some of this property, the sewer service area boundary in this

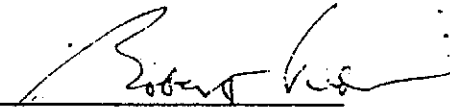
area follows Lumberton Township's approved zoning map for this area. The zoning boundary is an acceptable basis upon which to establish the sewer service area of a sewage treatment plant. Further, the major basis of the MHMUA WMP amendment was the approved Lumberton TDR Ordinance, which matches this zoning boundary. In addition, the area proposed to be added to the sewer service area of the MHMUA STP exceeds 10 acres and has not received explicit approval from Lumberton Township. As with the other changes proposed above, this change could not be made without additional notice of this amendment and holding another public comment period. Therefore, the requested change to the MHMUA WMP for the area of Lumberton Township between Eayrestown Road, Landing Street and the existing MHMUA sewer service area was not made as part of this amendment.

Comment: The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) commented that the current DRBC Docket No. D-70-133 CP for MHMUA's treatment plant service area description includes Mount Holly, and portions of Eastampton, Hainesport, Lumberton and Westampton Townships; it does not include Moorestown and Mount Laurel Townships. Further, the Docket limits the MHMUA STP to 5.0 mgd. Since the current inflow from Moorestown and Mount Laurel Townships "is zero", and the MHMUA STP's actual flow is 2.43 mgd, it would appear that it will be some time before actual expansion of the MHMUA STP is proposed. The addition of part of Moorestown Township on a permanent basis and part of Mount Laurel Township on a temporary basis is an expansion of service area, and a revision of the MHMUA Docket will be required. The DRBC Comprehensive Plan can be updated as to the projected ultimate flows but a further revision will be required when the plant is proposed for actual expansion. Any anticipated wasteload allocations or stream quality parameters that may need clarification for the projected discharge increase should be coordinated with the DRBC Planning Branch.

Response: The DRBC was notified in May of 1994 of the pending MHMUA WMP amendment (subsequently adopted on January 18, 1995), which allowed a portion of Moorestown Township to permanently be placed within the sewer service area of the MHMUA, and provided no comments at that time. Since this sewer service area already exists and wastewater flows are presently being conveyed to the MHMUA STP, the Department requests MHMUA to immediately contact the DRBC and request the required revision to the MHMUA Docket. This revision should include the temporary connection to Mount Laurel Township if the DRBC deems this to be necessary. In addition, the MHMUA must also coordinate any anticipated wasteload allocations or stream quality parameters with the DRBC Planning Branch and request the required update to the DRBC Comprehensive Plan when the plant is proposed for actual expansion.

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.



Robert Tudor
Administrator
Office of Environmental Planning
Department of Environmental Protection

9/14/98

Date