

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

AMENDMENT TO THE TRI-COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on **OCT 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 proposal was submitted on behalf of the Grasso Foods Company in Woolwich Township, Gloucester County and amends the Logan Township Municipal Utilities Authority (LTMUA) Wastewater Management Plan (WMP). The amendment expands the existing ground water disposal system discharge area of the Grasso Foods Company approximately 5.57 acres to include Block 32, Lot 6 in Woolwich Township to accommodate a proposed spray irrigation system. Grasso Foods is a seasonal pepper processing plant that cuts, dices and freezes peppers. The washing of the peppers is the main source of wastewater which is presently discharged into two on-site percolation lagoons after biological treatment under New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit NJ0099732. This amendment allows treated wastewater to be spray irrigated onto an adjacent field in addition to using the percolation lagoons.

The existing Grasso Foods site and discharge, located at Block 32, Lots 3 and 4 in Woolwich Township, was identified in the LTMUA WMP. The proposed new spray irrigation site at the time of amendment proposal was located within the future sewer service area of the LTMUA STP. The amendment changed this site designation to on-site ground water disposal that is part of the Grasso Foods site service area. Grasso Foods has an average daily wastewater flow of 130,300 gallons per day but is allowed to discharge up to 300,000 gallons per day.

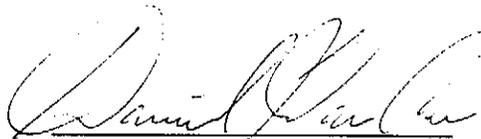
This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on May 4, 1998. Comments on this amendment, in the form of a conditional statement of consent from Woolwich Township, were received during the public comment period and are summarized below with the Department's responses.

Comment: Woolwich Township requested that the buffer along Woodstown Road be increased from 50 feet to 100 feet. In addition, the Township Committee believes that there should be no increase in water run-off from the Grasso property onto Woodstown Road with a specific request to review the type and quantity of vegetation with the buffer area along Woodstown Road. The Township also believes that the hours of operation for spray irrigation should be limited with nighttime spraying being more desirable due to reduced wind velocities at night. A request that the Department review noise levels with regard to any pumps or generators associated with the project was also made. Woolwich

Township also claims that there is an existing tremendous odor problem with regard to the Grasso Foods operation. The Township would like the Department to review the odor problem and to require the applicant to take all steps reasonably possible to rectify the current odor problem.

Response: The issues listed all relate to the actual site specific details that are part of Department or local permit applications and reviews. These issues go beyond the scope of a Water Quality Management Plan amendment and can not be addressed as part of the amendment process. However, the Department's Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control will address the first three issues as part of their review of the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for this proposed wastewater treatment facility. The issue of noise is the responsibility of the local health department and can not be regulated by a Department permit. The issue of odor control comes under the jurisdiction of the Department's Air Quality Permitting Division and the Air and Environmental Quality Compliance and Enforcement, Southern Region. Current odor problems should be brought to the attention of the Enforcement Office, while technical permit concerns should be addressed as part of any air permits required for this site.

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.



Daniel J. Van Abs
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10-14-98

Date

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