

5/2/99

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

AMENDMENT TO THE TRI-COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on **APR 08 1999**, 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, submitted on behalf of the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA), adopts a Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) for CCMUA's district and sewer service area. This WMP covers all of Camden County and two additional areas in Evesham and Mount Laurel Townships within Burlington County. This Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) identifies a wastewater planning flow expansion to the Winslow Township Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Winslow Township.

The Winslow Township STP discharges wastewater to ground water at on-site and off-site infiltration/percolation lagoons near Sicklerville under New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permit #NJ0061760 at a design capacity of 1.65 million gallons per day (mgd). The CCMUA will expand the Winslow Township STP to 2.25 mgd by construction of two new clarifiers and a new oxidation ditch. The on-site lagoons will be abandoned due to their close proximity to the Pinelands National Reserve boundary. In addition, the sewer service area boundary of the Winslow Township STP has been expanded to include almost the entire non-Pinelands region of the Great Egg Harbor River Basin in Winslow Township. The WMP states CCMUA will not provide sewer service to the environmentally sensitive areas within this region.

The existing Ancora STP is permitted to discharge 239,000 gallons per day (gpd) via spray irrigation field or surface impoundment under NJPDES permit #NJ0021962. An expansion to this STP was proposed in the preliminary public notice, however, this expansion is inconsistent with the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). Therefore, an expansion to this STP was not approved as part of this amendment. However, should the proposed expansion to 400,000 gpd become consistent with the Pinelands CMP, this WMP would be revised to reflect this expansion without undergoing an additional public review process.

No expansion to the flows of the CCMUA Delaware No. 1 Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) located in the City of Camden and discharging into the Delaware River will occur as part of this WMP. However, the WMP does include an expansion to the sewer service area of the CCMUA Delaware No. 1 WPCF. This expansion includes the portion of Winslow Township in both the Great Egg Harbor River Basin and the Pinelands Regional Growth Area as well as a small portion in the Albion section of Winslow Township, and will provide sewer service through the Atlantic Basin

Interceptor. The portions of Albion located within the Atlantic River Basin will be subject to the same 1.2-mgd flow cap for interbasin transfer that the remainder of the Mullica River Basin area is held to until additional planning is done.

The WMP notice specified a future wastewater planning flow of 76.121 mgd for the WPCF. However, based on the comments received and additional verification of flows it has been determined that the future flow is projected to be 75.932, which is below the facilities design capacity of 80 mgd. This change is not significant and does not require an additional notice. The WMP references a potential need to increase the design capacity of this facility based on ongoing water studies and stream monitoring in the Mullica River basin. Future changes to this facility would require another amendment to the CCMUA WMP.

No facilities are proposed to be abandoned as part of this WMP, however, the CCMUA reserves the ability to service facilities within their sewer service area if local sewer service becomes available and the discharge is able to meet the industrial pretreatment standards and sewer use ordinance.

The Winslow and Elm Pinelands Village service areas within Winslow Township have been updated to reflect the revised mapping in the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP).

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on January 19, 1999. Comments on this amendment were received during the public comment period and are summarized below with the Department's responses.

**COMMENT:** Will the Winslow satellite plant expansion make it possible to build homes on agriculture land and expand suburban sprawl? If so, what steps will County and local planning authorities take to prevent it? (Roxane C. Shinn)

**RESPONSE:** The Wastewater Management Plan is not proposing any wastewater service area changes to any lands designated agricultural based on the Township of Winslow Zoning Map last revised on April 2, 1991. However, the DEP has no control over County or local planning authorities. These issues could be addressed through cross-acceptance of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP).

**COMMENT:** Will the plant (The Department believes the commenter is referring to the Winslow STP) and CCMUA require developers that wish to hook up the full incremental costs of line extensions and service? (Roxane C. Shinn)

**RESPONSE:** What local authorities charge customers for providing service and connection fees are local issues and are not part of the WMP. However, CCMUA informed the Department that Winslow Township and CCMUA would charge a connection fee for anyone who wants to tie into the wastewater treatment plant.

**COMMENT:** Will the plant (The Department believes the commenter is referring to the Winslow STP) be hooked to any structures that require wetland filling? If so, what steps will County and local planning authorities take to prevent it? (Roxane C. Shinn)

**RESPONSE:** Any impacts on wetlands within the property area would either have to be avoided or must receive a wetlands permit (which includes any filling, general, or stream encroachment) from the Department's Land Use Regulation Program. The Winslow Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) currently has five on-site lagoons that will be closed and converted back to wetlands. CCMUA prefers to convert them back to wetlands to prevent any wetland filling. Three additional lagoons will be constructed at an off-site location that will not involve wetlands.

**COMMENT:** Has Winslow Township adopted a master plan designed to channel growth in existing settlements, or will it permit suburban sprawl typical of the problem cited in the State Plan? If it currently permits sprawl development, what steps will the Township or County take to modify the plan? (Roxane C. Shinn)

**RESPONSE:** CCMUA had the option of basing the WMP on local zoning or Master Plans and chose to use municipal zoning for Winslow Township. It is Winslow Township's responsibility to channel any growth that occurs within its boundaries as they see fit. Currently, CCMUA has applied to the Municipal Finance and Construction Element of the Department with a loan application in order to fund the wastewater treatment plant expansion. As part of this application an environmental constraints analysis must be prepared. Therefore, the State will require CCMUA to have future discussions with Winslow Township to reduce any adverse environmental effects. These discussions should include channeling growth to reduce suburban sprawl.

**COMMENT:** Winslow's population is expected to grow faster than any other municipality in Camden County. Is this projected settlement pattern consistent with the State Development Plan? Should the State approve the Wastewater Management Plan even as Camden County has declined to cross-accept the State Planning goals? Is constructing sewers to support fast growth in the least dense municipalities consistent with the State Plan to redirect growth into population and growth centers? How can the Plan be approved and be consistent with State Policy? (Roxane C. Shinn)

**RESPONSE:** Although the Department fully supports and encourages consistency with environmental policies within the State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP), the SDRP is not a regulatory document, and the Statewide Water Quality Management Planning rules do not require that WMPs and amendments be consistent with water resource-related policies in the SDRP prior to DEP approval. As indicated in the December 10, 1997 Appellate Division decision on New Jersey Builders Association vs. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Robert C. Shinn, Jr., Commissioner, until such time as regulations, including the Statewide Water Quality Management Planning rules, are revised to implement the SDRP, DEP may not use the SDRP as a decision-making criterion in applications for permits and approvals.

**COMMENT:** Has the County calculated the VMT and automobile trip generation that will be generated from the new residents that will live in the homes served by the expanded plant? (The Department believes the commenter is referring to the Winslow STP.) Is there adequate public infrastructure, i.e. roads, schools, bridges, fresh water, utilities, etc in place already to accommodate this growth, or will it have to be built and at what cost? Where will the people work that the wastewater expansion will serve? (Roxane C. Shinn)

**RESPONSE:** The impact of the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant on automobile trip generation or other transportation issues, schools, bridges, employment etc. are not wastewater management planning issues, as such the Department has no authority to address these issues as part of this WMP approval.

**COMMENT:** The annual average wastewater discharge for the Ancora STP is 239,000 gpd. An application to the Pinelands Commission is required for any increase in discharge. No application for expansion of discharge for Ancora STP has been received by the Pinelands. Based on the information available, an expansion to 400,000 gallons per day would be inconsistent with the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. (The Pinelands Commission)

**RESPONSE:** The Department acknowledges that the expansion as proposed is inconsistent with the Pinelands CMP and has not approved this expansion as part of this WMP. However, should the proposed expansion to 400,000 gpd become consistent with the Pinelands CMP, this WMP would be revised to reflect this expansion without undergoing an additional public review process.

**COMMENT:** The Borough of Gibbsboro does not accept the population figures written in the proposed CCMUA Wastewater Management Plan. The report uses 1,900 for 1996 and a projected 2,050 for the year 2016. Gibbsboro has a current population of 2,383 and this population is projected to increase to 2,500 by the year 2016 with the potential for a 1,900-person housing development. (Borough of Gibbsboro)

**RESPONSE:** The CCMUA has agreed to change the Wastewater Management Plan to reflect the future figures given by the Borough of Gibbsboro. This future population figure for Gibbsboro has been changed from 2,050 to 2,500. However, the present population figure 1,900 will remain the same since they are based on actual metered flows and customer account data.

**COMMENT:** The service area boundary as indicated on the WMP map requires revision to account for some existing property connections within Mount Laurel. Table 3 of the Amendment only provides for 13,000 gpd of future flow within Mount Laurel. The Mount Laurel Township Municipal Utilities Authority (MLTMUA) will require 100,000 gpd of future capacity in order to service existing homes with septic systems and new construction. Page 39 indicates that Cherry Hill Township must approve additional flow from Mount Laurel. It is our opinion that approval from Cherry Hill should not be

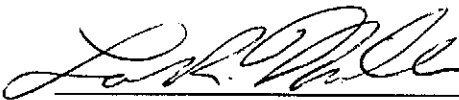
required for new MLTMUA connections to the CCMUA system. (Mount Laurel Township Municipal Utilities Authority)

**RESPONSE:** Although the comment period for the CCMUA WMP expired, the Department consulted with CCMUA and changed the service area boundary for the Mount Laurel portion according to the mapping included with the Mount Laurel Township Municipal Utilities Authority comment letter. CCMUA has indicated that the additional flow figure of 13,000 gpd for Mount Laurel's future allocation cannot be changed at this time. Cherry Hill and CCMUA have agreed to allow a present allocation of 0.237 gpd and a future allocation of 0.250 gpd through their Kingston collection system. Mount Laurel Township MUA will have to negotiate any additional flow with Cherry Hill in order to increase the total flow projection in the WMP. The Kingston collection system belongs to Cherry Hill, and therefore will require an approval from Cherry Hill and CCMUA to increase flow for Mount Laurel. If approval is granted, an amendment to the CCMUA WMP will have to be submitted to the Department to reflect any changes.

**COMMENT:** The existing population of 2,100 as referenced in the CCMUA WMP is inaccurate. The current Laurel Springs population, per the 1990 census, is 2,341. As the Borough is essentially built-out, the anticipated future population is approximately 2,350. (Borough of Laurel Springs)

**RESPONSE:** Although the comment period for the CCMUA WMP expired, the Department consulted with CCMUA and they agreed to change the future population figure from 2,200 to 2,350. However, the present population figure of 2,100 will remain the same since they are based on actual metered flows and customer account data.

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.



Lance R. Miller  
Director  
Division of Watershed Management

4/8/99  
Date