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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED AMENDMENT TO THE TRI-COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Public Notice

RWBK
Project

Take notice that on **SEP 25 2001**, 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 by the Gloucester County Utilities Authority (GCUA), allows the GCUA wastewater treatment plant to increase its influent flow from the present permitted capacity of 24.1 million gallons per day (mgd) to 27.0 mgd. Through this amendment, GCUA intends to supply up to 10.0 mgd of treated effluent to the PG&E Corporation's proposed Mantua Creek Generating Station for use in all of its electric generating processes. Under this agreement between GCUA and PG&E, GCUA will accept up to 2.9 mgd of the pretreated wastewater back from the PG&E process, accounting for the 2.9 mgd increase in influent volume. The remainder will be lost through the cooling process. GCUA and PG&E will be required to meter and report the exchange of effluent. The amendment will not change the permitted effluent level for the GCUA wastewater treatment plant, which will remain at 24.1 mgd. In this case, the allowed influent level will be different from the effluent level. The NJPDES permit discharge limits and pollutant loading criteria will remain as currently established for effluent flow of 24.1 mgd.

This amendment was evaluated in accordance with Executive Order 109 (2000) (EO 109) and N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.18 and no alternatives analyses are required for the changes as proposed. The increase in influent to 27.0 mgd is intended to be accommodated within current plant design capacity. The amendment will not result in an increase in

sewer service area, effluent discharge or pollutant loadings. Therefore, the proposed amendment does not require anti-degradation, pollutant loading or riparian buffer analyses. Further, this amendment will not result in a new or increased water demand. Instead, this amendment will allow a beneficial reuse of water that will avoid an increase in water demand. Accordingly, a water supply analysis is not necessary.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on February 5, 2001 (33 N.J.R. 593 (b)). Two comment letters were received, from representatives of municipalities in Gloucester County. The following persons timely submitted written comments.

1. Philip C. Sartorio, PP/AICP, on behalf of the Honorable David Ferrucci, Franklin Township, Gloucester County
2. Jean A. Riggs, Administrator/Municipal Clerk, South Harrison Township, on behalf of the Honorable Russell J. Marino, Mayor, South Harrison Township

COMMENT # 1: Since wastewater from Franklin Township can not be treated at the GCUA facility, remaining in the GCUA Wastewater Management Planning Area adds an additional level of review and approval in order to achieve the goals of promoting economic growth in the Township. The Township requests that they retain their status as the Wastewater Management Planning Agency for the Township of Franklin. (1)

RESPONSE #1: This proposed amendment is strictly to allow for the beneficial reuse of treated effluent to the PG&E facility. The designation of a Wastewater Management Planning authority is outside the scope of this proposed amendment. The Department recognizes that

Franklin Township was identified as the Wastewater Management Planning agency for the Township through the Franklin Township Wastewater Management Plan, adopted in 1989. At the request of the Township Committee, Franklin Township will remain the WMP agency for the Township.

COMMENT # 2: According to the supporting documentation submitted by GCUA, South Harrison Township is included in the GCUA Wastewater Management Planning Area. The Township of South Harrison does not utilize the Gloucester County Utilities Authority treatment plant, therefore South Harrison Township does not support their inclusion in the GCUA Wastewater Management Planning Area. (2)

RESPONSE # 2: Designation of GCUA as the Wastewater Management Planning Agency is outside the scope of this amendment. This amendment is limited to the issue of beneficial reuse. Historically, GCUA has been identified as the Wastewater Management Planning Agency for the majority of Gloucester County, including South Harrison Township. However, the Township of South Harrison is not currently serviced by GCUA, and the pending GCUA amendment does not call for any wastewater treatment service for South Harrison Township in the future. The Department will entertain a request from South Harrison Township to designate South Harrison Township as the Wastewater Management Planning Agency for the Township. If this option is chosen, the Department will work with the Township to make the appropriate changes to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan.

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: 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.



Mary T. Sheil
Director
Division of Watershed Management
Department of Environmental Protection

9/25/01
Date