

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED AMENDMENT TO THE TRI-COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT
PLAN (WQMP)

Public Notice

Take notice that on **JAN 28 2009**, 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 WQMP as well as the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA) Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department). This amendment was submitted on behalf of the CCMUA. This amendment increases the allotted wastewater flows and sewer service area of the CCMUA Delaware #1 Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in the following ways:

- 1) Increase the wastewater flow allocation for Bellmawr Borough by 850,000 gallons per day (gpd);
- 2) Increase the wastewater flow allocation for Chesilhurst Borough by 30,000 gpd;
- 3) Increase the wastewater flow allocation for Waterford Township by 82,000 gpd;
- 4) Increase the wastewater flow allocation for the Cedarbrook section of Winslow Township by 188,000 gpd;
- 5) Eliminate the Sicklerville Sewage Treatment Plant (NJPDES permit NJ0061760), located in Winslow Township, and convey its flow to the Delaware No.1 STP (NJPDES Permit NJ0026182) in Camden City, conditioned upon endorsement from the Pinelands Commission, and;
- 6) Eliminate the Ancora STP (NJPDES permit NJ0021962), located in Winslow Township and convey its flow to the Delaware No.1 STP in Camden City.

The Delaware No.1 STP is permitted to discharge 80 million gallons per day (mgd). The average discharge from this facility in the past year was 56.5 mgd. Accordingly, the STP has adequate capacity to accommodate this increased flow without modification to the facility or its NJPDES permit.

There is an inter-basin transfer cap in the WMP adopted in 1999. This cap was set by agreement with various agencies to limit the amount of water that could be moved from one basin to another. The collective increase of the inter-basin transfer cap of wastewater flow from the Atlantic Basin to the Delaware Basin as a result of the proposed changes described in 2, 3 and 4 above would be 300,000 gpd. Currently the cap is 1.2 mgd and this increase would raise it to 1.5 mgd.


As summarized above, the changes include changes to wastewater flow allocations for various municipalities. For Chesilhurst Borough, the former wastewater flow allocation was 150,000 gpd. The increase of 30,000 gpd brings the wastewater allocation to 180,000 gpd. For Waterford Township, the former wastewater flow allocation was 510,000 gpd. The increase of 82,000 gpd brings the wastewater allocation to 592,000 gpd. For Winslow Township, the former allocation was 540,000 gpd. The increase of 188,000 gpd brings the wastewater allocation to 728,000 gpd. The increase for Bellmawr Borough is not an inter-basin transfer. The former wastewater flow allocation is 1.760 mgd. The increase of 850,000 gpd brings the wastewater allocation to 2.61 mgd for Bellmawr Borough. The Ancora facility is located in the Atlantic Basin, however, in accordance with the Pinelands Commission they have agreed to use a water supply source located in the Delaware Basin to conform to the inter-basin transfer cap. The Sicklerville STP is located in and serves areas located entirely within the Delaware Basin. This also does not contribute any additional flow to the inter-basin transfer cap.

This proposed amendment has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 109 (2000) and N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.18. The increased interbasin transfer of water, from Winslow, Waterford and Chesilhurst, from the Atlantic Basin to the Delaware Basin has been endorsed by the Pinelands Commission. The closing of the Ancora and Sicklerville STP's are compliant with DEP Administrative Orders as both plants have failed to operate as designed and subsequently pose a threat to the health and safety of the respective communities. No sewer service will be extended to areas identified in the Department's Division of Fish & Wildlife's Landscape Project as threatened or endangered species habitat Ranks 3, 4, and 5, or similarly by the Natural Heritage Priority Program. The EPA provided two grants to CCMUA to help defer the cost of the STP and collection system. As a condition of this grant, CCMUA agreed that

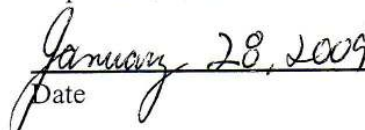
no sewer service will be extended to environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat, and floodplains. Likewise, no sewer service will be extended to areas within a Department designated riparian corridor, the extent of which is defined in N.J.A.C. 7:13.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on July 7, 2008 at 40 N.J.R. 4239 (b) 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