

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 **APR 20 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 was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department). This amendment was submitted on behalf of the Gloucester County Utilities Authority (GCUA). The Department recently adopted an amendment for the GCUA Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) on December 10, 2008 for all or part of sixteen municipalities in Gloucester County at 41 N.J.R. 671(a). The recently adopted WMP includes provision for future expansion of the GCUA wastewater treatment plant from 24.1 million gallons per day (MGD) to 38 MGD. This amendment provides for an expansion of the build-out flow of the adopted GCUA sewer service from the currently approved 38 MGD to 38.6 MGD.

As indicated above, the recently adopted GCUA WMP includes provision for expansion of the GCUA wastewater treatment plant, NJPDES permit NJ0024686, in West Deptford Township from its formerly permitted 24.1 MGD to 38 MGD, as necessary to meet the anticipated future wastewater management needs of the sewer service area initially calculated in the GCUA WMP application. During the Department's review of the initial GCUA WMP, GCUA refined its build-out analysis to account for future wastewater flows from existing developed properties presently served by septic systems that are located within GCUA's proposed service area. These properties will be connected to the GCUA wastewater system in the future, but, because the properties are already developed on septic systems, they were not initially assigned a future wastewater flow to the GCUA Wastewater Treatment Plant. The revised build-out also addressed zoning changes in Monroe Township and East Greenwich Township. The revised build-out analysis did not change the proposed sewer service area or GCUA Consolidated District.

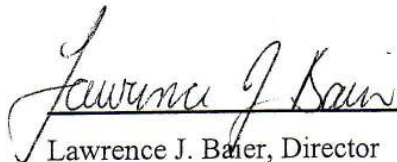
Taking these changes into account, the October 2007 revised build-out increased the estimated future wastewater flow to the GCUA wastewater treatment plant from 38 MGD to 38.6 MGD. However, the Department's notices seeking public comment on the proposed initial GCUA WMP (40 N.J.R. 212(b) and 40 N.J.R. 1933(a)) inadvertently utilized the initially calculated build-out flow for the total GCUA service area of 38 MGD.

The GCUA WMP was reviewed under Executive Order 109 (2000) and N.J.A.C.7:15-5.18, and the Department determined that the WMP complied with these requirements. As noted above, this amendment only alters the projected wastewater flow, not the adopted Sewer Service Area (SSA) and thus only parts of the EO 109 analysis concerned with flow required reassessment as part of this amendment. The Department has reassessed the water quality impacts with an analysis of the background conditions of the receiving waters and the perceived possible impacts of this increase to determine if an expansion of the GCUA wastewater treatment facility to 38.6 MGD would have any detrimental effect on the receiving waters. This analysis demonstrated that this expansion is feasible without resulting in a water quality lowering in the receiving waters of the Delaware River which included examination of such factors as receiving water volume, dilution, and low flow factors.

The Consumptive Water Use Analysis indicated that sufficient water supply is available from the Tri-County Project and existing permitted local sources to meet the build-out projections of the Consolidated District without the need to modify existing water allocation permits. The Tri-County Project is expected to supply the majority of the future potable water demand in the Consolidated District. The Tri-County Project draws water from the Delaware River and the GCUA discharges treated wastewater back to the Delaware River. Therefore, no significant additional depletive water use is anticipated to result from this proposed increase in flow. In addition, any increase in interbasin flow due to revised build-out projections for the Atlantic Basin portion of Monroe Township, which ultimately discharges to the Delaware Basin, will still be well within the limit of 3 MGD set by the Delaware River Basin Commission.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on January 20, 2009 at 41 N.J.R. 678(a) 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.

  
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Lawrence J. Baier, Director

Division of Watershed Management

Department of Environmental Protection

  
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Date