

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DIVISION OF COASTAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

Adopted Amendment to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan

Public Notice

Take notice that on **Oct 3, 2012**, 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), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) adopted an amendment to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). This amendment was submitted on behalf of Southshore Properties, LLC. The project involves expansion of the Gloucester County Utilities Authority (GCUA) sewer service area in order to serve the Villages at Whisky Mill Development to be constructed on Block 401, Lot 24, and Block 402, Lot 1, East Greenwich Township, Gloucester County. The property is located on the south side of Berkley Road and will include 84 three-bedroom townhomes; 28 two-bedroom townhomes; 30,500 square feet of office/retail space; and a 150-seat restaurant, located on approximately 51 acres. The development will generate a total wastewater flow of 39,800 gallons per day (gpd), calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:9A, which will be conveyed via new wastewater gravity sewers, pumping station and force main to the existing Mantua Creek interceptor system owned and operated by the GCUA. Treatment will occur at the GCUA treatment facility, located in West Deptford, Gloucester County. Currently, the GCUA facility (#NJ0024686) has a permitted capacity of 38.6 million gallons per day (mgd) and discharges to the Delaware River, a designated Category 2 (C2), Fresh Water 2, Non-Trout, Saline Estuarine (FW2-NT/SE2) waterway, as classified under the Surface Water Quality Standards, N.J.A.C. 7:9B. The GCUA provides treatment for the northern portion of Gloucester County known as the Consolidated District. Along with a portion of East Greenwich, the Consolidated District includes Clayton Borough, Deptford Township, Glassboro Borough, Mantua Township,

National Park Borough, Paulsboro Borough, Pitman Borough, Washington Township, Wenonah Borough, West Deptford Township, Westville Borough, Woodbury City, Woodbury Heights Borough, and portions of Elk Township and Monroe Township.

This amendment has been reviewed in accordance with the Water Quality Management Planning Rules that set the environmental review standards to be applied to an amendment at N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.18, 5.24 and 5.25.

As part of the wastewater management planning for the Consolidated District of Gloucester County, an environmental constraints/build-out analysis was completed and included in a previous WQMP Amendment, adopted December 10, 2008 (see 41 N.J.R. 671(a), January 20, 2009). This analysis determined future wastewater treatment needs for each of the sewer service areas within the Consolidated District. Existing wastewater flow for East Greenwich per the adopted Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) is 374,258 gpd. East Greenwich has a contractual agreement with the GCUA to treat 730,000 gpd of wastewater. This amendment to include the Villages at Whiskey Mill development will increase the build-out flow by 39,800 gpd, which is within GCUA's allocated capacity to East Greenwich. No expansion or upgrade of the GCUA facility will be required in order to treat this additional flow. However, based on the build-out analysis, future wastewater needs of the Township are projected to be 1,386,014 gpd. In order to meet these needs, the Township will need to negotiate a new agreement with the GCUA. The project has received local final approvals and GCUA endorsement.

In order to satisfy the Riparian Corridor Analysis, the Township of East Greenwich adopted Ordinance No. 13-2000 to ensure the protection of the riparian corridors along all perennial and intermittent streams. As required, the adopted ordinance established and protects Water Resource/Buffer Conservation Zones (stream corridor buffer) adjacent to municipally designated surface waters (excluding man-made) and regulates development within those zones. The stream corridor buffers vary in width depending on the water body's classification in the Surface Water Quality Standards at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.15.

To satisfy the Nonpoint Source Pollutant Loading/Hydromodification Analysis, East Greenwich Township has adopted Stormwater Management Ordinances No. 7-2006 and 01-2008, which comply with the performance standards of the Stormwater Management Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8. Also, per the adopted GCUA WMP, the Gloucester County Improvement Authority prepared watershed-based municipal stormwater management plans for the entire county.

The Endangered or Threatened Species Habitat Analysis was performed utilizing the Department's Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Non-Game Species Program "Landscape Project." The Landscape Project identifies areas of critical habitat that support or potentially support Federal and State endangered or threatened species and other species of concern. Endangered and Threatened Species Habitats reviewed under this analysis are Rank 5 (Federal endangered and/or threatened species); Rank 4 (State endangered species); and Rank 3 (State threatened species). The analysis identified approximately 5.5 acres of Bald Eagle Foraging within the property that is part of a larger delineated area. However, based on site-specific information reviewed by Department personnel, it has been determined that this area is no longer suitable habitat for bald eagle.

The development's water supply will be provided by the East Greenwich Township Water and Sewer Department, which withdraws and treats water from the Potomac Raritan Magothy Aquifer. The Township's water allocation limits and withdrawal rates were approved by the Department's Bureau of Water Allocation. The current water allocation permit (WAP090001) will not require modification to serve this development.

The notice of this amendment proposal was published in the New Jersey Register on August 6, 2012, at 44 N.J.R. 2066(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.

SIGNED

Elizabeth Semple, Acting Director
Division of Coastal & Land Use Planning
Department of Environmental Protection

10/3/12

Date