

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COORDINATION**

Adopted Amendment to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP)

Public Notice

Take notice that ~~NOV 3~~ **NOV 3 2014**, 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 updates the GCUA Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) adopted December 10, 2008 to include the Pinnacle Place development in the GCUA WTF SSA.

Pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 203, as amended by P.L. 2013, c. 188, the Department, in consultation with the applicable wastewater management planning agency, may approve the inclusion of land within a SSA notwithstanding that existing treatment works may not currently have the assured capacity to treat wastewater from such land without infrastructure improvements or permit modification. Therefore, amendments to modify a SSA may be approved if such actions are compliant with the applicable sections of the Water Quality Management Planning rule (N.J.A.C. 7:15) regardless of whether capacity has been fully assessed, however, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.25(h)1, the projected wastewater flow of the project has been evaluated. The proposed wastewater flow, as calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3 is 28,800 gallons per day. Currently, GCUA WTF is permitted to discharge 27 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated wastewater to the Delaware River under NJDPES permit number NJ0024686. The average of the last twelve months of discharge monitoring data show that GCUA WTF has discharged an average daily flow of 19.273 MGD. The additional 0.029 MGD of wastewater will not cause the wastewater generation potential of the expanded SSA to exceed the permitted capacity of the GCUA WTF.

The GCUA WTF provides treatment for the northern portion of Gloucester County known as the Consolidated District. Along with Washington Township, the Consolidated District includes Clayton Borough, Deptford Township, Glassboro Borough, Mantua Township, National Park Borough, Paulsboro Borough, Pitman Borough, Wenonah Borough, West Deptford Township, Westville Borough, Woodbury City, Woodbury Heights Borough, and portions of East Greenwich, Elk, and Monroe Townships. As part of the GCUA WMP, an environmental constraints/build-out analysis was performed for these Townships in order to identify future wastewater needs. Based on the analysis, Washington Township has a projected need to treat 0.987 MGD of additional residential wastewater flow, which is not yet connected to the GCUA WTF. The additional 0.029 MGD of planned residential wastewater flow generated from this project would be added to the current planning flow of 0.987 MGD, resulting in a new residential planning flow of 1.016 MGD for Washington Township. The GCUA WMP has been updated to reflect the SSA expansion.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24 and 5.25, environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) have been assessed to determine what areas of the project are appropriate for inclusion in the proposed SSA. ESAs evaluated include, but are not limited to: habitat for threatened and endangered species as identified on the Landscape Project Maps of Habitat for Endangered, Threatened or Other Priority Species, Natural Heritage Priority Sites, riparian zones, wetlands, steep slopes, Coastal Fringe, Coastal Rural and Coastal Environmentally Sensitive Planning Areas, beaches, coastal high hazard areas, and dunes.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24, ESAs are defined as contiguous areas of 25 acres or larger consisting of habitat for threatened and endangered species as identified on the Landscape Project Maps of Habitat for Endangered, Threatened or Other Priority Species, Natural Heritage Priority Sites, Category One (C1) special water resource protection areas, and wetlands, alone or in combination. These ESAs are not included in the expanded SSA.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(b)1, to determine areas designated as threatened or endangered species habitat, the Department utilized the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Landscape Project Maps of Habitat for Endangered, Threatened or Other Priority Species, version 3.1. Areas identified by the Landscape Project as being suitable habitat for threatened and endangered species Ranks 3 (State threatened), 4 (State endangered), and 5 (Federal endangered or threatened) are not to be included in proposed SSAs except as provided under N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(e) – (h), or unless a site has undergone a site specific Habitat Suitability Determination prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.26 that found the site to be not suitable habitat, or pursuant with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(g)2, the Department determined the ESA is not critical to a population of endangered or threatened species the loss of which would decrease the likelihood of the survival or recovery of the identified species. Review of the project site has determined that no threatened or endangered species habitat exists on site.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(b)2, areas mapped as Natural Heritage Priority Sites are not to be included in proposed SSAs, except as provided under N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(e) – (h). Review of the project site has determined that no Natural Heritage Priority Sites exist on site.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.25(h)5i, riparian zones shall be protected. Riparian zones or buffers are established along all surface waters, based on the surface water body's classification designated at N.J.A.C. 7:9B, under the following regulations: the Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules, the Stormwater Management rules, and the Water Quality Management Planning rules. A Riparian zone has been identified adjacent to the project site, and the soils onsite are identified as acidic soils (lower member of the Kirkwood Formation), therefore the required riparian buffer width for the Porch Branch is 150 feet from top of bank. The applied buffer does not encroach upon the expanded SSA, therefore the Riparian Corridor Analysis is satisfied.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(b)4, areas mapped as wetlands pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:9A-1 and 13:9B-25 are not to be included in proposed SSAs, except as provided under

N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(e) – (h). In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(e)2, Letter of Interpretation, L.O.I. # 0818-06-0003.1 was submitted, which indicates the presence of wetlands on Block 52, Lot 4.01, and requires a 50 foot buffer. All though the applicant originally included Block 52, Lot 4.01 in their proposed SSA, they subsequently removed the SSA from this lot, avoiding any wetlands on the site, thereby satisfying N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(b)4.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.25(h)6, proposed development disturbance is not to be located in areas with steep slopes, defined as any slope greater than 20 percent. There are no steep slopes on the subject site.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(c), lands within certain coastal planning areas (Coastal Fringe, Coastal Rural, and Coastal Environmentally Sensitive Planning Areas) are not included in the SSA. The project site is not in a coastal planning area.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(d)1, areas with Federal 201 grant limitations that prohibit the extension of sewers to serve development in specified areas such as wetlands and floodplains are excluded from proposed SSAs. There are no grant conditions for this site.


Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(d)2-4, special restricted areas such as beaches, coastal high hazard areas, and dunes are not to be included in the proposed SSA. This site does not contain these areas.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.25(h)3 the water supply need for the proposed project has been evaluated. The proposed project would be served by the public water supply provided by Washington Township, which is currently permitted under PWSID 0818004 to allocate 273 million gallons per month (MGM) and has a water supply surplus of 30.825 MGM. The proposed water demand of the project is 0.020 MGD or 0.611 MGM, which, when added to the current demand, is within the water supply surplus; therefore sufficient water supply is available to serve the development within the existing water allocation permit.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.25(h)4, a project or activity's stormwater management is to be evaluated. However, P.L. 2011, c. 203 as amended by P.L. 2013, C. 188, directs there be a presumption that an engineered subdivision or site plan is not required. Compliance with this standard shall be demonstrated by submission of an adopted stormwater management plan and ordinance that conform with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:8. The project is in compliance with this standard, as Washington Township has adopted stormwater control ordinance #28-2006, which complies with the performance standards of the Stormwater Management Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8. The county and local governments are responsible for review and implementation of the Stormwater Management rules during their review and approval of proposed development.

This amendment proposal was noticed in Volume 38, Issue 16 of the New Jersey Bulletin on August 20, 2014, 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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11/3/2014

Date