

**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 **FEB - 9 2015**, 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 submitted on behalf of the James and Hattie McTague Estate, expands the Gloucester County Utilities Authority (GCUA) sewer service area (SSA) by approximately 66 acres to include Block 14901, Lots 22, 23, 36-39 and 42 in Monroe Township (Township), Gloucester County. The subject property is located between U.S. Route 322 (Glassboro-Williamstown Road) to the south, and County Route 655 (Fries Mill Road) to the east. The expansion of the SSA will accommodate the proposed development of 25 single family homes and 4,500 square feet of commercial and retail uses.

This amendment updates the GCUA Consolidated District Wastewater Management Plan (WMP), adopted December 10, 2008 (see 41 N.J.R. 671(a), January 20, 2009), to include the James and Hattie McTague Estate Project in the GCUA SSA. This amendment has been reviewed in accordance with the Water Quality Management Planning rules that set the environmental standards to be applied to an amendment at N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.18, N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24 and N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.25.

Pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 203, 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, the projected wastewater flow of the project has been evaluated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.25(h)1. The subject development's proposed wastewater flow, calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3, is 0.00795 million gallons per day (MGD). Currently, the GCUA WWTP (NJDPES #NJ0024686) is permitted to discharge up to 27 MGD of treated wastewater to the Delaware River. Based on an average of the monthly average flow for the most recent twelve month period for which discharge monitoring data is available, the existing wastewater flow discharged from GCUA WWTP was calculated to be 19.3 MGD. The addition of the proposed development's projected wastewater flow, estimated as 0.00795 MGD, would not cause the wastewater generation potential of the expanded SSA to exceed the permitted capacity of the GCUA WWTP.

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 proposed 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). The project site is within the Downer Natural Heritage Priority Site. The Downer Natural Heritage Priority Site (NHPS) lies in parts of Monroe and Washington Townships, Gloucester County. The area mapped contains more than 1,000 acres. The primary area of concern is a red maple/Atlantic white cedar swamp with sphagnum spring seeps that follow the Beaverdam Branch of the Maurice River. Primary bounds for the NHPS site include the extent of the documented wetland habitat for rare plant species. Secondary bounds include additional wetlands along with other lands draining toward the wetlands, which may benefit from careful watershed management. The McTague property lies within the secondary boundary.

The Department has determined that the McTague property does not contain suitable habitat for Swamp Pink and that suitable habitat documented for Swamp Pink lies offsite. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24 (g)2., the Department finds that environmentally sensitive areas proposed to be included in the sewer service area are 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 species in the State.

A plan of one sheet entitled "Plan of Sewer Service Area Addition situate Block 14901, lots 22,23,36-39 &42, Township of Monroe, Gloucester County, New Jersey" dated 12/17/13, not revised, signed and sealed by Gary R. Civalier, P.E. and L.S. depicts the area on the site which may be included with the GCUA SSA.

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.

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 (LOI) # 0811-09-0001.1 FWW 090001, dated April 2, 2009 was submitted. Areas subject to those LOIs which were delineated as wetlands, including any associated buffers, are not included in the proposed SSA.

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.

In accordance with 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.

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 the Monroe Township Municipal Utilities Authority which is currently permitted under water allocation permit number WAP 100001 and PWSID No.: 0811002 to allocate 143.690 million gallons per month (MGM) and currently has a water supply surplus of 12.024 MGM. The proposed water demand of the project, calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.25(f)1i, is 0.00798 MGM; therefore, sufficient water supply is available to serve the proposed 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. Compliance with this standard shall be demonstrated by the adoption of a municipal stormwater management ordinance that conforms with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:8

(Stormwater Management Rules). The Township of Monroe has adopted stormwater management ordinance Section 175-40 of Chapter 175 of the Monroe Township Municipal Code, entitled Land Management, which complies with the performance standards of the Stormwater Management Rules. Consequently the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.25(g)1 for stormwater control have been satisfied.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Bulletin on November 19, 2014 at Volume 38, Issue 22 as well as the South Jersey Times, 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.



Colleen Kokas, Director
Office of Water Resources Management Coordination

2-9-15

Date