

**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**

**MAY 12 2015**

**Take notice** that \_\_\_\_\_, 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 proposal, submitted by Dewberry Engineers, Inc. on behalf of Bancroft, would expand the sewer service area (SSA) of the Mount Laurel Municipal Utilities Authority, Hartford Road Water Pollution Control Facility (permitted under NJ0025178) to include a portion of Block 509, Lot 1.04, in Mount Laurel Township, Burlington County. This proposal is named “Bancroft Neurohealth Facility”.

The amendment has been reviewed in accordance with the Water Quality Management Planning rules, N.J.A.C. 7:15-1 et seq and Section 6(h) of P.L. 2011, c. 203, as amended and supplemented P.L. 2013, c. 188, which allows for the consideration of an application for a WQMP amendment for a proposed activity that delineates as SSA a parcel, not to exceed 100 acres in size, that had been previously included in a formerly adopted SSA, provided it can be demonstrated with the use of updated or more accurate information that the parcel complies with the regulatory criteria for the delineation of a SSA established at N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24, 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 adopted 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. 7:15-5.24(b)3, C1 special water resource protection areas are not to be included in the proposed SSAs, except as provided under N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(e) - (h). No C1 waterways are within 300 feet of the project site.


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. # 0324-02-0019.1-FWW080002 was submitted, which re-delineates the wetlands and their associated transition areas, and these areas are not included in the adopted SSA.

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.

All other special restricted areas as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(d)1-4; areas with Federal 201 grant limitations that prohibit the extension of sewers to serve development in specified areas such as wetlands and floodplains; and beaches, coastal high hazard areas, and dunes are not applicable to the amendment's site location.

The proposal for this amendment was noticed in the New Jersey Bulletin on April 1, 2015 at Volume 39, Issue 7, 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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**Colleen Kokas, Director**  
**Office of WRM Coordination**  
**Department of Environmental Protection**

5-12-15  
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**Date**