

**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 on **JUL 10 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 by the Monroe Municipal Utilities Authority, expands the sewer service area (SSA) of the Gloucester County Utilities Authority Sewage Treatment Plant (GCUA STP) to include the entirety or portions of 78 residential and 10 commercial parcels in Monroe Township, Gloucester County. The project is identified as "Crystal Lakes Area", Project Identification No. 435433, Activity No. AMD140005 and includes the following parcels: Block 301, Lots 29, 30, 33, 35-42; Block 401, Lots 20-27; Block 501, Lots 25-27, 29, 31-37, 42, 42.01, 43, 45; Block 603, Lots 1-4, 7-13, 17, 31; Block 604, Lots 1.01, 1.02, 5-15, 18; Block 605, Lot 1; Block 606, Lots 1, 2; Block 611, Lots 1, 3-7, 9-13.

The GCUA STP provides treatment for the northern portion of Gloucester County known as the Consolidated District. Along with Monroe 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 Washington 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, Monroe Township has a projected need to treat 3.774 MGD of additional wastewater flow, which is not yet connected to the GCUA STP. This amendment's proposed wastewater flow, as calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3 is 20,078 gallons per day. The additional 0.020 MGD of planned wastewater flow generated from this project is added to the current planning flow of 3.774 MGD, resulting in a new residential planning flow of 3.794 MGD for Monroe Township. The GCUA WMP will be updated to reflect the adopted SSA expansion.

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 as modified by P.L. 2011, c. 203 (amended by P.L. 2013, c. 188). Section 6 of P.L. 2013, c. 188 allows for the consideration of an application for a WQM Plan amendment that does not propose a specific project or activity and delineates as SSA a parcel not to exceed 100 acres in size that 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(a), SSA may only be provided to areas that are not identified as environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs), coastal planning areas or special restricted areas, except as provided by N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(e) - (h). In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(b), 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 special water resource protection areas, and wetlands, alone or in combination. Each of these ESAs was assessed for inclusion in the SSA as outlined below.

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 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 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 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, special water resource protection areas along Category One waters and their tributaries established under the Stormwater Management rules, N.J.A.C. 7:8 are not to be included in the SSA, except as provided under N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(e) – (h). Review of the project site has determined that no Category One waterways or their tributaries exist in the project area.

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 SSAs, except as provided under N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(e) – (h). Wetlands identified on Block 501, Lots 31, 32, 45 have been included in the adopted SSA as they are less than 25 acres and not contiguous. Wetland areas are also included in the adopted SSA on the developed residential parcels on Blocks 604, 605, 606, 301, and commercial parcels on Block 501 and 611. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(g), the Department has determined that these wetlands in the adopted SSA are included to remove undulations in the SSA boundary as necessary to create a linear boundary that relates to recognizable geographic or political features as allowed by N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.20(b)2, and that the ESAs included in the SSA 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. These parcels are generally small, less than one quarter of an acre, and predominantly not environmentally sensitive. The adopted SSA also includes wetlands on undeveloped parcels, Block 301, Lots 35 and 39, where only a portion of the lots fronting Herbert Boulevard are included in the SSA. These parcels are included in the SSA pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.24(g), as the Department has determined that wetlands in the SSA are included to allow infill development, and that the ESAs included in the SSA 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.

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), special restricted areas including areas with Federal 201 grant limitations that prohibit the extension of sewers to serve development in specified areas such as wetlands and floodplains, in addition to special restricted areas of designated beaches, coastal high hazard areas, and dunes are not included in the SSA. These restricted areas are not applicable here.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Bulletin on March 4, 2015 at Volume 39, Issue 5, and no comments were received during the comment period. The following affected entities consented to this amendment: Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders on May 20, 2015, Gloucester County Utilities Authority in Resolution #2015-093, and Monroe Township in Resolution #91-2015. There were no comments submitted opposing this SSA amendment.

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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Date

