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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

AMENDMENT TO THE UPPER DELAWARE WATER QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on ~~AUG 04 1997~~ 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 Upper Delaware Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department). This amendment, submitted by Washington Borough and Washington Township, Warren County, adopts a Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) for the Borough and amends the existing Township WMP. The Borough proposes to expand the existing Borough of Washington Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to accommodate an annual average wastewater flow of 1.157 million gallons per day (mgd). The expansion will accommodate the sewer needs for the entire Borough based on existing zoning and development proposals and 30 lots within the Township which are presently served by the Borough STP. Forty-two (42) units in the western Washburn Avenue area of the Township (the Newbold Apartment Complex and 5 single family homes), which are currently served by the Borough STP, will be diverted from the Borough STP to the Township's proposed Pohatcong Creek STP once service becomes available. Additionally, wastewater from the Warren Hills High School, located in the Township, will be diverted from the Borough STP to the proposed Township STP once service becomes available. As part of the Borough STP expansion, the effluent discharge location will be moved from the existing location in the Shabbecong Creek to the Pohatcong Creek, both classified as Fresh Water 2- Trout Maintenance (FW2-TM).

In addition to the changes in sewer service area identified above, several areas that had been identified in the Township WMP as future sewer service area to the Borough STP are no longer proposed to be served by the Borough STP. These areas have now been added to the proposed Township STP sewer service area. The areas generally include: the Port Colden/Route 57 area east of the Borough (including the Cali Subdivision and Metropolitan Developers/Port Colden Mall) and the Sky View Drive area near the southwest corner of the Borough. With the above changes in sewer service area, the proposed Township STP, which will discharge to the Pohatcong Creek, will be designed to accommodate annual average wastewater flows of 1.138 mgd.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on May 5, 1997 and a public hearing was held on June 12, 1997. Comments on this amendment were received during the public comment period and are summarized below with the Department's responses.

COMMENT: Two commenters wondered if it was still possible for the Borough and Township to get together on a single joint sewage treatment plant proposal. As residents and rate payers they felt that a combined facility would be more cost effective. Another commenter simply stated her continued support for a joint plant proposal.

**RESPONSE:** The Department agrees with the commenters that in this case, with the two municipalities and their proposed sewer service areas as they are, it appears that a single treatment plant serving both communities would be the most logical from both an engineering (relevant to the collection conveyance system) and economical standpoint. The Department has been trying to encourage the municipalities toward a single plant for several years and in fact suggested and facilitated mediation discussions between the two parties. Unfortunately, those discussions have not at this time provided a mutually acceptable agreement. The Borough is presently under an Administrative Order with the Department to upgrade their existing STP. This proposal is proceeding at this time to accommodate the Borough's pursuit of financing under the Wastewater Management Trust which provides funds to subsidize wastewater treatment projects. Should the municipalities come to an acceptable agreement, adoption of this proposal does not preclude the possibility of a future amendment to accommodate that proposal.

**COMMENT:** If the Borough proceeds now with the Wastewater Trust to obtain funding and then a combined plant agreement is worked out, where does the funding stand?

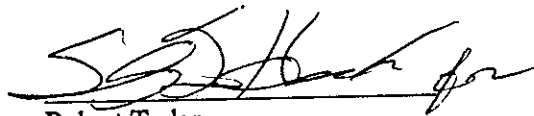
**RESPONSE:** It is anticipated that the Borough loan will be awarded in November 1997. If an acceptable single plant arrangement can be achieved, a separate loan application would be required since the project would be beyond the scope of the existing project. For information regarding the application process the Municipal Finance and Construction Element can be contacted at (609) 292-8961.

**COMMENT:** Two commenters expressed concern regarding an amendment proposal which was submitted in December 1993 by Washington Township Sewage Authority. Part of that amendment proposal is the removal of a proposed treatment on the Musconetcong River and the pumping of flows from that basin to the proposed Pohatcong Creek STP. The commenters are concerned that the Township proposal was pushed aside and are anxious for the Department to expedite the review of the proposal once this amendment is complete.

**RESPONSE:** The Department responded to the amendment proposal in February 1994. In that response that Department indicated that the Department would not take further action for two reasons: 1) the Department had received two conflicting proposals, one from the Borough and one from the Township, and 2) pursuant to the Statewide Water Quality Management Planning Rules, the Township was to submit a WMP meeting all requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:15 by October 1995. The Department suggested that it was in the Township's best interest to go ahead at that time and submit the required WMP which would satisfy the October 1995 requirement. The Township choose not to submit the required WMP at that time but rather submit only the revised portions of the WMP necessary to coincide with the Borough's proceeding amendment. The Township portion of the present amendment proposal was strictly limited to addressing removal of portions of the Township from the Borough sewer service area. The Township only revised the portions of the existing Township WMP affected by this proposal. The Department is aware there exists additional wastewater management planning needs. These additional proposals may be considered in the future as part an entire Township WMP Update.

This amendment represents only one part of the permit process and other issues will be addressed prior to final permit issuance. Additional issues which were not reviewed in conjunction with this amendment but which may need to be addressed may include, but are not

limited to, the following: 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.



Robert Tudor  
Administrator  
Office of Environmental Planning  
Department of Environmental Protection

AUG 04 1997

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Date

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING  
100 WATER STREET  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109  
TEL: 617-725-3300  
FAX: 617-725-3301