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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 **NOV 23 1998**, 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.

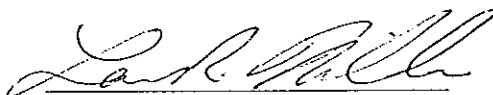
This amendment, submitted on behalf of Our Lady of Fatima, USA, Incorporated, modifies the Franklin Township and Washington Township Wastewater Management Plans to include the proposed Blue Army Shrine wastewater treatment and ground water disposal system (design flow of 15,000 gallons per day) for their religious facility, located on Mountainview Road in Franklin and Washington Townships, Warren County, and designate the existing site as "Service Area for Wastewater Facilities with Planning Flows of Less Than 20,000 GPD Which Discharge to Ground Water". The Blue Army Shrine site covers approximately 102 acres of which 24.4 acres are in Franklin Township (Lot 9, Block 47) with the remaining 77.6 acres in Washington Township (Lot 39, Block 68). A new 98,000 square feet Pilgrim Center is proposed to be constructed on-site in conjunction with the proposed new wastewater treatment and ground water disposal system that will treat all sanitary wastewaters from the proposed center and three existing structures; a shrine, a convent and a single family dwelling. Currently the existing structures are served by four existing septic tanks that will be abandoned and replaced with the proposed treatment system. The proposed treatment system will utilize equalization (26,750 gallon tank size) and biological treatment along with ultraviolet radiation disinfection prior to discharge to the subsurface disposal beds (11,250 square feet disposal area). Additionally, the construction of a 57,500 gallon water supply storage tank is proposed on-site to address peak day water supply concerns during infrequent religious events and retreats (on May 15th and October 15th, peak attendance up to 4,000 visitors).

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on August 17, 1998. One comment on this amendment was received during the public comment period and is summarized below with the Department's response.

- The Borough of Washington commented that should the above amendment impact Pohatcong Creek, "the Borough wishes...to reserve its right to comment thereon."

The Department responded that there is no reasonable expectation of any impact upon Pohatcong Creek as a result of this amendment, based upon the on-site investigational studies conducted by Applied Water Management, Inc. which indicates that the local ground water flows away from Pohatcong Creek. Notwithstanding the above, the Borough's request has been noted.

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.



Lance R. Miller
Director
Division of Watershed Management
Department of Environmental Protection

NOV 23 1998

Date