

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED AMENDMENT TO THE UPPER DELAWARE WATER QUALITY
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on November 14, 2005, 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 on behalf of Hunterdon County, allows the County to build a County Fairground with associated office, barns and display buildings covering 42.3 acres to be located at Block: 8.02, Lot: 25.01, on Old York Road, East Amwell. An onsite discharge to groundwater disposal system is proposed to accommodate the 2,500 gallons per day (gpd) of wastewater flow projected in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:9A-7.4 based upon the workers in the office building and general passive use of the fairground. During Fairground events the office building and restroom will be locked and portable sanitary facilities with holding tanks will be brought onsite to handle up to 45,000 gpd of wastewater generated during these events.

This proposed amendment has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 109 (2000) and N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.18. It was determined that a Nonpoint Source Pollutant Loading Analysis was necessary. The applicant will implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) including the addition of vegetative cover, enhanced vegetation and utilization of unpaved parking. The Nonpoint Source Pollutant Loading Analysis determined that implementation of these BMPs will result in an overall decrease in nonpoint source pollutant loadings.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on June 7th, 2004 at 36 N.J.R. 2941(b). On June 20th, 2005, a second notice was published at 37 N.J.R. 2258(a) which included a second septic system and larger total flow to accommodate general passive use needs. Comments on this amendment were received during the

public comment period and are summarized below with the Department's responses. All the comments that were received on this project were from the East Amwell Township Board of Health.

Comment: The Department's Public Notice on June 20th, 2005 in the New Jersey Register made a reference to two septic systems with flows of 2,500 gallons per day (gpd) and 1,500 gpd respectively. Is this how wastewater will be disposed on site?

Response: The Department made an error in the second Public Notice regarding the number of septic systems. There will be one septic system on-site designed for 2,500 gpd which will be permitted under a NJPDES permit.

Comment: As part of this amendment, did the Department review any hydromodification or nonpoint source pollutant loading analysis for the Hunterdon County Fairgrounds?

Response: The Department reviewed the Hunterdon County Fairgrounds application and determined that the project met all applicable hydromodification and nonpoint source pollutant loading analysis requirements.

Comment: The County purchased an additional 50 acres of property adjacent to the site that this amendment is addressing for use as a recreation area. How will the Department review this land that is directly adjacent to the Hunterdon County Fairground site?

Response: The Department is aware that the Hunterdon County has purchased 50 acres adjacent to the current Hunterdon County Fairground project site but has not received any plans for development or use on that parcel. If and when the Department receives any plans for the adjacent 50 acres, the project will be required to conform to all State and local regulations in effect when the plans are received.

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.

Lawrence J. Baier

Lawrence J. Baier, Director
Division of Watershed Management
Department of Environmental Protection

November 14, 2005

Date