

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED AMENDMENT TO THE UPPER DELAWARE WATER QUALITY
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on **JUN 17 2010**, 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 the Township of Allamuchy, Warren County, is for the adoption of the Township of Allamuchy Wastewater Management Plan (WMP). The WMP identifies the Sewer Service Area (SSA) of the Township of Allamuchy Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) within the Township and supersedes the previously adopted 1990 Township of Allamuchy WMP. No expansion to the Future Sewer Service Area of the Township of Allamuchy WTP was proposed as part of this WMP. Wastewater is currently conveyed to the Township of Allamuchy WTP, which discharges to a tributary of the Pequest River (FW2-NT). The Allamuchy WTP is currently permitted to discharge 0.6 million gallons per day (MGD) under New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Permit number NJ0020605. The total projected future flow of the adopted SSA is 0.529 MGD. Accordingly, no increase in the capacity or permitted flow of the Allamuchy WTP is included in the adopted WMP.

The WMP also removes Lot 37, Block 901 from the Hackettstown Municipal Utilities Authority (HMUA) Future Sewer Service Area and designates it as Service Area for Wastewater Facilities

with Planning Flows of Less Than or Equal To 2,000 Gallons Per Day (GPD) which Discharge to Ground Water. This lot had been previously proposed to be served by HMUA in the adopted 1990 Township of Allamuchy WMP.

This amendment has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 109 (2000) and N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.18. As part of this process, the applicant has performed a Nonpoint Source Pollutant Loading Analysis, Water Use Analysis, Groundwater Quality Analysis, Riparian Corridor Analysis, and Endangered and Threatened Species Analysis. A Point Source Pollutant Loading Analysis was not necessary as there is no proposed expansion of the WTP beyond its current permitted capacity.

Nonpoint Source Pollutant Loading has been addressed through the adoption of a Municipal Stormwater Ordinance (# 2006-05) in accordance with N.J.A.C 7:8. The Consumptive Water Use Analysis indicates that sufficient water supply is available. The majority of the Township of Allamuchy is to be served by the Allamuchy Water and Sewer Utility. Sufficient water supply is available within the existing water allocation permit to serve the parts of the Township of Allamuchy to be served by public utilities. The results of the Recharge-Based Nitrate-Dilution Model for New Jersey, which was utilized to address the Ground Water Quality Analysis, indicates that the area weighted average required lot size to maintain ground water quality is 5.6 acres for the Township to meet the 2 mg/L standard. Current zoning for the majority of areas in the Township designated as Service Area for Wastewater Facilities with Planning Flows of Less Than or Equal To 2,000 GPD which Discharge to Ground Water exceeds this minimum lot size requirement.

The Township adopted a Municipal Riparian Corridor Ordinance (# 2009-08) on June 16, 2009, which successfully addresses the requirements of the Riparian Corridor Analysis. The Endangered and Threatened Species Analysis utilized the Department's Landscape Project Mapping to identify all areas classified as Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Rank 3, 4, or 5. Areas identified in this analysis have been removed from Future Sewer Service areas.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on August 17, 2009 at 41 N.J.R. 3112 (b). Comments on this amendment were received from the staff members of the New Jersey Highlands Council and are summarized below with the Department's responses.

Comment: The extension of sewer service area to the land beyond the developed school site in the Village of Allamuchy does not conform to the Highlands Regional Master Plan. The sewer service area should be restricted to only the existing school so that the undeveloped portions of the lot remain unsewered.

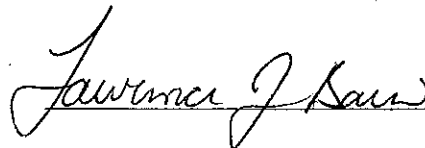
Response: The municipality has revised the Wastewater Management Plan to restrict the sewer service area on this lot to the existing school.

Comment: The local zoning in septic system areas does not conform to the Highlands Regional Master Plan.

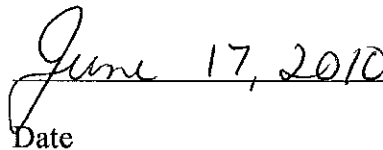
Response: Current zoning satisfies the standards required under the Water Quality Management Planning Rules. Department review of municipal zoning indicates that non-conforming lots are all located in the portion of Allamuchy Township that is in the Highlands Planning Area. Additional analysis performed by Department staff indicates that the actual number of units which could be built at build out after removing open space, stream buffers and steep slopes as restricted by current Allamuchy ordinances does not differ significantly from the septic capacity

analysis established under the RMP and is within the limits that would be set using the Highlands nitrate dilution targets and average annual recharge for dilution.

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, Director
Division of Watershed Management
Department of Environmental Protection



Date