

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

AMENDMENT TO THE UPPER RARITAN WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on **JUL 24 1996**, 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 Raritan Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department). This amendment updates the Washington Township Municipal Utilities Authority Wastewater Management Plan with regard to the location of discharge for the Welsh Farms Incorporated process wastewater treatment plant. Welsh Farms Incorporated is a dairy processing plant located in Washington Township, Morris County. The existing treatment plant discharges treated process wastewater from outfall #001 to an unnamed tributary of the South Branch of the Raritan River, an intermittent stream classified in the New Jersey Surface Water Quality Standards as fresh water 2-trout maintenance (FW2-TM). The plant is permitted under New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. NJ0001236. The amendment allows for relocation of the outfall, via extension of the outfall line by approximately 600 feet, for discharge to the South Branch of the Raritan River, also classified as FW2-TM. The projected process wastewater flow to the Welsh Farms treatment plant is specified as 150,000 gallons per day. No expansion of the treatment plant or the sewer service area is proposed as part of this amendment.

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.

In addition, the Department is initiating a watershed-based planning effort to support development of appropriate water quality-based effluent limitations for conventional, nonconventional and toxic pollutants. Until appropriate water quality-based effluent limitations are developed through this watershed-based planning effort, the Department is relying on site-specific studies to develop effluent limitations for individual discharges. A site-specific water quality study covering the stream segments where the Welsh Farms discharge is currently and proposed to be located projects compliance with dissolved oxygen criteria in the New Jersey Surface Water Quality Standards and does not identify any phosphorus-related problems which would be created or worsened by the Welsh Farms discharge of phosphorus. However, this study (Impact Analysis of a Wastewater Discharge on the Water Quality of the South Branch of the Raritan River; Najarian Associates, Inc.; July 1994) does not fully assess compliance with the applicable phosphorus criteria, as specified in the New Jersey Surface Water Quality Standards [N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.14(c)]. The Department may, in the future, complete a water quality assessment and develop or cause to have developed total maximum daily loads and wasteload allocations for phosphorus, in the South Branch of the Raritan River, which reflect the various sources of phosphorous and the most appropriate

