

Sum

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

AMENDMENT TO THE UPPER RARITAN WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on **JUL 30 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 Raritan Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department). This amendment proposal was submitted on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJDHS). The amendment allows for an increased wastewater discharge from the Hagedorn Center for Geriatrics located at Block 9, Lot 7 in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County. The NJDHS at Hagedorn presently owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility and is authorized under NJPDES Permit No. NJ0022144 to discharge 42,000 gallons per day (gpd) to Rocky Run. At present the facility serves 193 residents and is discharging an average daily flow of 29,485 gpd. Rocky Run is classified as FW2-Trout Production (Category One) in the Surface Water Quality Standards (NJAC 7:9B). The NJDHS proposes to increase the permitted discharge to 52,000 gpd. The proposed increase will accommodate a 100-bed addition which has been constructed, additional resident capacity which exists within the existing buildings but is presently unoccupied, and various waste streams within the existing powerhouse which will be connected to the sanitary sewer. Buildings with existing septic systems are not proposed to be connected to the sewer system.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on June 15, 1998. A comment on this amendment was received during the public comment period and is summarized below with the Department's response.

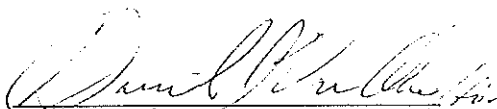
COMMENT: Commenter opposes any amendment to the WQMP to accommodate the poor planning and errors the NJDHS made. Any amendments weaken the WQMP and set a precedent to encourage others to "work around" the rules. NJDHS seems lacking in basic sewage management and treatment, since the current problem is caused by miscalculation of benefits of repairing leaky sewage lines.

RESPONSE: The amendment process is one component of the Federally and State mandated Continuing Planning Process for water quality management. WQM Plans are constantly amended to reflect the changing water quality management needs of the State. Regulations specifying the requirements of and process for amending the Plans is found at NJAC 7:15.

The construction of the first phase of the Sewer Improvement Program has been completed. This project included the replacement and relining of approximately 2,800 feet of sanitary sewer collection line. The project did not have as dramatic affect on the average daily flow to the plant as planned. However, fluctuations in flow, particularly during wet weather events, have been substantially decreased which has eased the plant operation.

This amendment addresses the planning aspects of the Hagedorn proposal, technical aspects of the proposal will be reviewed as part of the NJPDES permit review process. Prior to increasing their discharge beyond the present NJPDES permit limits, Hagedorn must obtain a new NJPDES permit allowing the increased discharge. The new NJPDES permit will establish monitoring requirements and effluent parameter limits based upon the quality and classification of Rocky Run. Evaluation of the current functioning of the plant, together with the proposed plant upgrades, indicates that the facility will be able to meet the strict permit limits and not cause degradation of the receiving stream. Should Hagedorn not meet these restrictions they will be required to implement additional upgrades or to seek other disposal options.

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.



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Department of Environmental
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7-30-98

Date

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