

to Gary Parsons 6/20/02

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED AMENDMENT TO THE UPPER RARITAN WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on 6-19-02, 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 was submitted by the Ridge at Back Brook, L.L.C. This amendment allows for 5,192.5 gallons per day (gpd) of wastewater flows generated from the Ridge at Back Brook Golf Course to be discharged to groundwater. The 300-acre, 18-hole championship golf club is located at Block 25, Lot 10 in East Amwell Township. A majority of the property's northern boundary is located adjacent to Back Brook Road while a smaller section of the southern boundary is located adjacent to Wertsville Road. Of the 300-acre site, 120 acres will be used for the golf course. A portion of the golf course is identified as proposed sewer service areas. These sewer service areas are limited to where the wastewater flows are generated (clubhouse, cart barn, maintenance building, and back-9 comfort station). The remainder of the site is designated as "General Service Area for Wastewater Facilities with Planning Flows of Less Than 2,000 gpd Which Discharge to Ground Water".

The clubhouse will generate wastewater in its 75-seat restaurant, 20-seat lounge, locker and shower rooms, and restrooms. The proposed cart barn will include a small office and restroom. The maintenance building will provide restrooms for maintenance employees. The comfort station will provide the golf club members and their guests with a restroom facility on the back-9. The generated wastewater from these four (4) sources will be disposed of by means of three (3) separate on-site subsurface sewage disposal systems. The clubhouse and cart barn will discharge into the main septic system (4,380 gpd) and the maintenance building (312.5 gpd) and comfort station (500 gpd) will discharge into dedicated septic systems.

This amendment was evaluated in accordance with Executive Order 109 (2000) and N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.18. The applicant was issued a combined Stream Encroachment Permit (1008-99-0006.10) and Freshwater Wetlands Permit (1008-99-0006.4 - .9) on March 6, 2001. Based upon the Stormwater

Quality Best Management Practices as required by the East Amwell Township Planning Board, the Water Quality Monitoring Program for groundwater, surface water and macroinvertebrates, along with information provided as part of the permit application, it has been determined that the Riparian Corridor Analysis, Nonpoint Source Pollutant Loading/Hydromodification Analysis and Threatened and Endangered Species Analysis have been satisfied for this project. The Pollutant Loading analysis has been satisfied as part of the technical review conducted by the Department that will lead to the issuance of a New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Discharge to Groundwater (NJPDES/DGW) permit. The Depletive/Consumptive Analysis has been satisfied as part of the technical review conducted by the Department. As part of this analysis, a Draft Water Allocation permit was issued and a public hearing was held on March 13, 2002.

Notice of this amendment proposal was published in the New Jersey Register on April 15, 2002 at 34 N.J.R.1553(b). Notice of the amendment was also published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on April 11, 2002. The Department held a public hearing on May 15, 2002. The public comment period ended May 30, 2002. There were no written comments received by the Department. However, the following people made comments on the amendment at the public hearing:

1. Ilona S. English
2. Jamie & Daniel Mirabito

A summary of the issues raised by the commentors and Department responses are as follows.

Comment: The State of New Jersey continues to allow golf courses to utilize extreme amounts of pesticides and herbicides thereby affecting groundwater and surface water and eventually exposing men, women and children and other wildlife to various types of chemicals. (1)

Response: The water quality monitoring program established for The Ridge at Back Brook was developed to evaluate potential impacts to groundwater and surface water quality from golf course operations. The analytical methodologies and the sampling schedules have been reviewed and approved by NJDEP's Pesticide Control Program along with East Amwell Township's Planning Board. All pesticide applications on the golf course are required to be made by licensed commercial applicators and in accordance with all applicable requirements of the Pesticide Control Code, N.J.A.C. 7:30. These regulations help ensure proper use of pesticides to minimize risk and impact to human health and the environment. The Department also promotes the use of Integrated Pest

Management techniques and best management practices on golf courses when controlling pests by using alternative strategies to help reduce pesticide use and their potential impacts on the environment.

Comment: Of the perc tests conducted for the proposed septic systems, only two were found to be satisfactory. East Amwell Township's ordinance requires four satisfactory perc tests in order to determine reserve areas should any of the original septic sites fail.(2)

Response: As referenced by the commentors, East Amwell Township has enacted an ordinance in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:9A-3.1 which applies to individual subsurface sewage disposal systems approved by the East Amwell Health Department as the local Administrative Authority (i.e. discharges of less than 2,000 gallons per day). The development covered by this amendment requires a NJPDES/DGW permit issued by the Department in accordance with the Pollutant Discharge Elimination System rules (the NJPDES rules), N.J.A.C. 7:14A. The Department's decision on the NJPDES/DGW permit application will be based upon the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:14A.

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: 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.



Mary T. Sheil, Director
Watershed Management
Department of Environmental
Protection

June 19, 2002
Date