

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED AMENDMENT TO THE UPPER RARITAN WATER QUALITY
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on **FEB 11 2003**, 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, submitted on behalf of St. Charles Borromeo Church, located at Block 26001, Lot 1.01 on Burnt Hill Road, Montgomery Township will allow for the church to expand their current facilities. St. Charles Borromeo Church has an existing onsite groundwater disposal facility to accommodate the wastewater from a 620-person chapel and a 1,080 square foot multi-purpose room. St. Charles is expanding their facilities by 19,800 square feet to include a multi-purpose social center, offices, conference rooms, a youth center, lounge and a library. St. Charles currently has local septic design approval allowing the discharge to groundwater of a total of 1,995 gallons per day (gpd). This amendment allows St. Charles to discharge a total of 3,929 gpd onsite to groundwater to accommodate the new addition.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on October 7, 2002 at 34 N.J.R. 3537(b). One comment on this amendment was received during the public comment period and is summarized below with the Department's response.

Comment: The expansion of St. Charles Borromeo Church facilities and parking areas would prohibit adequate aquifer recharge. The proposal would expand the discharge of wastewater to the local groundwater and septic are dirty.

(B. Sachau, citizen)

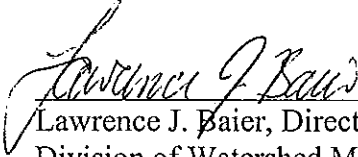
Response: Information submitted as part of the proposal of this amendment indicates that the number of St. Charles Borromeo Church parishioners has grown by 400 percent in the last ten years. The increase has resulted in cars parking in grass areas leading to rutting and erosion of the soils. The church was requested by Montgomery Township to increase the size of the parking facilities to alleviate the problem. The church proposes to implement the Department's Best Management Practices (BMPs) by directing the stormwater to a vegetated filter strip and modified the existing detention basin to provide a 24-hour detention time, doubling the existing detention time. These BMPs allow for increased infiltration as well as pollutant removal.

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 for the St. Charles Borromeo Church site. When the existing church was constructed, a detention basin was utilized to address stormwater run-off post construction. As part of this amendment, the applicant will implement improved (BMPs) including the addition of vegetative filtration strips and modification of the existing detention basin from an 11.5 hour detention basin to a 24 hour detention basin. The Nonpoint Source Pollutant Loading Analysis determined that implementation of these BMPs would result in an overall decrease in nonpoint source pollutant loadings.

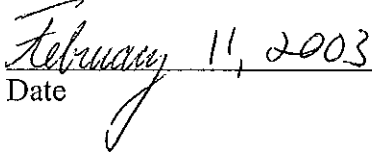
Septic systems are an acceptable wastewater treatment method when designed and sited properly. The current septic system was designed in compliance with the Township requirements. Additionally, the proposed facility will be regulated via a Department issued NJPDES permit, which will ensure that groundwater quality is protected.

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.



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



Date