

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED AMENDMENT TO THE UPPER RARITAN WATER QUALITY
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice: _____

Take notice that on **JUL 17 2007**, 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 modifies the Somerset County/Upper Raritan Watershed (SC/URW) Wastewater Management Plan to expand the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority (SRVSA) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) sewer service area to include 238 existing single-family residential lots in Hillsborough Township, Somerset County known as the Claremont Neighborhood. The parcels to be included in the SRVSA STP sewer service area are currently served by individual subsurface sewage disposal systems. The area to be included in the SRVSA STP sewer service area is approximately 250 acres. The Claremont Neighborhood is located at the intersection of Somerset Courthouse Road and Hamilton Road East and is bounded on the south by Beardslee Road and to the west by Royce Brook Golf Course. The projected wastewater flow from the existing residential dwellings, calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3, is 71,400 gallons per day (gpd).

The development proposed for inclusion to the sewer service area of the SRVSA STP has experienced numerous septic system failures and the entire development has been determined to be susceptible to septic system failure. In addition, a

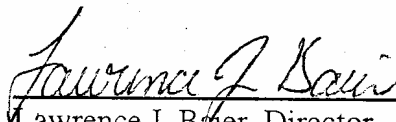
recent study concluded that excessive nutrient loading to several retention ponds within the Claremont Neighborhood was a result of septic system discharges via high ground water. Due to the high water table in the area, many of the homeowners within the Claremont Neighborhood who have experienced septic systems failure were required to have a more costly mounded septic system reinstalled. Therefore, the local health department determined it would be more economically feasible and would cause less environmental impact to provide sewer service to this vicinity.

As part of this amendment, a 77-acre parcel identified as Block 202, Lot 15 will be removed from the currently approved sewer service area. This property was zoned as Corporate Development Zone (CDZ). Based on current zoning regulations for office space development within the CDZ, this property had a projected wastewater flow of 99,983 gpd. This property is now included in the Hillsborough Township Farmland Preservation Inventory. Therefore, no development will occur on the lot. This lot will be designated as service area for wastewater facilities with planning flows of less than 2,000 gpd which discharge to ground water. As a result, no expansion to the SRVSA STP is proposed to accommodate the projected 71,400 gpd increase from the expanded service area.

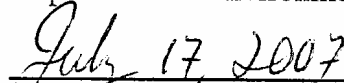
This amendment was evaluated in accordance with Executive Order 109 (2000) (EO 109) and N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.18. This evaluation determined that the threshold for Executive Order 109 (2000) (EO109) was triggered. However, considering that the proposed inclusion of the sewer service area will serve an existing residential development prone to an extensive history of septic system failure and no new or future development has been proposed, the Department determined that alternative and environmental impact analyses were not necessary.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the *New Jersey Register* on April 16, 2007 at 39 N.J.R. 1527(a). Four comments from current residents of the Claremont Neighborhood (Shirley Coulter, Sally Kean, Doug Eden, Jeanne M. Radich) were received on this amendment during the comment period. All comments expressed an interest in the adoption of this amendment. The Department acknowledges their support for this amendment.

This proposed 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; stormwater management; 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. Bauer, Director
Division of Watershed Management
Department of Environmental Protection


Date