

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED AMENDMENT TO THE UPPER RARITAN WATER QUALITY
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice:

Take notice that on **JAN 14 2010**, 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 also modifies the Washington Township Municipal Utilities Authority (WTMUA) Wastewater Management Plan (WMP). This amendment, submitted on behalf of Valley View Chapel, is for a proposed expansion to the current facility located on Block 36, Lots 43 and 43.01, within Washington Township, Morris County. This amendment allows for the expansion of the existing facility to include a new 600 seat sanctuary, a welcome center and a family life center with capacity for 252 Sunday school pupils, office space and associated additional parking. The proposed project is located on an 11.7-acre property situated south of the intersection of New Jersey State Highway Route 24 and Bartley Road. The total projected wastewater flow, as a result of the proposed expansion, is 4,320 gallons per day. Generated wastewater is to be treated and discharged to groundwater (DGW) via an on-site subsurface disposal system. This amendment designates only the sanctuary and other wastewater generating facilities located on the 0.93 acre portion of the project property within the Highlands Planning Area, as the Valley View Chapel sewer service area.

The project property is located within the Highlands Planning Area with a small portion partially within the Highlands Preservation Area (HPA). Therefore, a Highlands Applicability Determination application was submitted for review by the Department. On December 7, 2005, the Department issued an agency determination indicating that the proposed expansion qualified for a Highlands Act Exemption for an improvement for non-residential purposes to a place of worship owned by a non-profit entity for religious purposes in existence prior to August 10, 2004.

This amendment has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 109 (2000) and N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.18. This evaluation determined that the threshold for Executive Order 109 (2000) (EO109) was not triggered, therefore alternative and environmental impact analyses were not required.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on December 18, 2006 at 38 N.J.R. 5413(a). Comments containing recommendations were received from the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (Highlands Council) and are summarized below with the Department's response.

Comment: The Highlands Council recommends that the Department evaluate the wastewater treatment alternative of connecting the existing and proposed Valley View Chapel Facilities to the Long Valley Village (LVV) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP).

Response: During a preliminary review of the proposed project, the applicant requested that the Department consider the above recommendation. The Department determined that the WTMUA WMP had not been updated since it

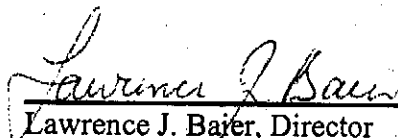
was adopted on May 15, 1991 and was therefore not in compliance with the requirements of the Water Quality Management Planning (WQMP) rules at N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.23, which require an update every six years. Therefore, any increase to the previously approved projected planning wastewater flow to the LVV STP, as identified in the WTMUA WMP, would require a comprehensive update of the WMP. Consequently, the applicant revised the proposed project as described herein for the use of the on-site DGW wastewater treatment system. Should the applicant decide to pursue future connection to the LVV STP, such a connection must be included as part of a new Morris County-wide WMP or as a subsequent amendment to the adopted WMP.

Comment: The Highlands Council recommends that the Department review proposed project disturbance utilizing the most current version of the Landscape Project data for Threatened & Endangered species habitat. If proposed impacts in areas designated as potential Threatened & Endangered species habitat cannot be avoided, the Highlands Council should be consulted for the development of acceptable mitigation measures.

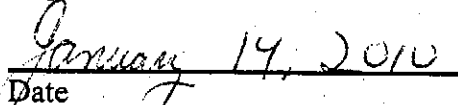
Response: The Department utilized version 3.0 of the Landscape Project data for Threatened & Endangered species habitat, the most current version developed for the Highlands Region, and determined a portion of the project location proposed for disturbance is designated as potential habitat for species of concern. In addressing the Council recommendation, the Department requested that the applicant consult with the Council in the development of necessary mitigating measures. In accordance with an agreement between the Council and the applicant, as a mitigation measure, the undeveloped portion of the project property located on Block 36, lot 43 and 43.01, wholly within the Highlands Preservation Area and delineated as critical species forested habitat, has been

deed restricted to remain undeveloped. This Grant of Conservation Restriction, placed on the remaining portions of Block 36, lot 43 and 43.01 not currently encumbered by existing Washington Township conservation easements, has been recorded in Morris County Book 21345 at page 0787 on July 14, 2009 and received by the Department on November 30, 2009.

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: compliance with stormwater regulations; 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. Bajer, Director
Division of Watershed Management
Department of Environmental Protection



Date