



New Jersey Pinelands Commission PRESS RELEASE

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Pinelands Commission signs off on five amendments to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan

NEW LISBON, N.J. – During its regular meeting today, the Pinelands Commission voted to adopt five amendments to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), the rules that govern land-use, development and natural resource protection in the Pinelands.

“These changes address a wide-range of important regulatory matters in the Pinelands and will further strengthen the Pinelands protection program,” said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission.

The regulatory amendments pertain to nonconforming uses, accessory recycling centers, the pilot program for alternate septic design wastewater treatment systems, escrows and the withdrawal of applications for development.

The first amendment stipulates that a nonconforming use will now be considered abandoned if it is voluntarily ceased or discontinued for a period of two years. The amendment also defines the term “nonconforming use.” In general, the Commission’s goal has been and will continue to be the ultimate cessation of nonconforming uses in the Pinelands.

The second amendment provides that accessory recycling centers will be permitted in the Preservation Area District and Forest Area only at those existing resource extraction sites and manufacturing sites that are within one mile of a Regional Growth Area or Pinelands Town.

The third amendment includes a series of changes to the alternate design treatment systems pilot program.

Under the fourth amendment, escrow requirements have been expanded to allow the Executive Director to require escrows not only for development applications but for other matters pending before the Commission.

The fifth amendment revises the Pinelands requirements to indicate that direct activity in furtherance of an application must occur within two years of the Commission’s request for information or that application will be deemed withdrawn.

The amendments were published in the New Jersey Register on May 21, 2007, and the Commission held a public hearing on the changes on June 26, 2007.

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The amendments are available for review on the Commission's Web site:
www.nj.gov/pinelands/cmp/amend.

The CMP has guided land-use and development in the state-designated Pinelands Area since it took effect on January 14, 1981.

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