

THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS NOTICE. THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE AUGUST 21, 2023, NEW JERSEY REGISTER. SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THIS TEXT AND THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE NOTICE, THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL GOVERN.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WATERSHED AND LAND MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Notice of Readoption

Water Quality Management Planning Rules

Readoption: N.J.A.C. 7:15

Authority: N.J.S.A. 13:1D-1 et seq., 13:1B-15.146 through 15.150, 13:19-1 et seq., 13:20-1 et seq., 23:2A-1 et seq., 40:55D-93 through 99, 58:10A-1 et seq., 58:11A-1 et seq., 58:16A-50 et seq., 58:11-23 et seq., and 58:29-1 et seq.

Authorized by: Shawn M. LaTourette, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection.

Effective Date: July 24, 2023.

New Expiration Date: July 24, 2030.

Take notice that, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1, the Water Quality Management Planning rules at N.J.A.C. 7:15 are readopted and shall continue in effect for a seven-year period. The rules were scheduled to expire on November 7, 2023. The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has reviewed the rules and has determined that the rules should be readopted because they are necessary, reasonable, and proper for the purpose for which they were originally promulgated and should remain in effect pending an anticipated rulemaking. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1.c, timely filing of this notice extended the expiration date of the chapter seven years from the date of filing.

The Water Quality Management Planning rules implement the Water Quality Planning Act (WQPA), N.J.S.A. 58:11A-1 et seq., whose purpose is to maintain, and where attainable,

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restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the surface and ground water resources of the State. The Water Quality Management Planning rules are one component of the State's water quality continuing planning process (CPP). The CPP is intended to integrate and unify water quality management planning processes, assess water quality, establish water quality goals and standards, and develop a Statewide implementation strategy to achieve the water quality standards (see N.J.S.A. 58:11A-7). The rules specify the components of, as well as the process for adopting and amending, areawide water quality management (WQM) plans. The rules also provide for wastewater management plans (WMPs); establishment of the 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Waters; and adoption of total maximum daily loads. WMPs are a key planning document and are intended to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the cumulative effects of existing and future land use on the water resources of the State and to ensure that the areawide WQM plans integrate related Federal, State, regional, and local comprehensive, functional, and other relevant land use planning activities. The rules also establish a grant program to assist watershed management groups in carrying out watershed management activities, pursuant to the Watershed Protection and Management Act of 1997, N.J.S.A. 58:29-1 et seq.