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PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WATERSHED AND LAND MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Proposed Amendment to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan

Public Notice

Take notice that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is seeking public comment on a proposed amendment to the Tri-County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan in accordance with the New Jersey Water Quality Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 58:11-1 et seq., and the Water Quality Management Planning rules, N.J.A.C. 7:15. The proposed amendment, identified as the Knight Owl Holdings V, LLC (Program Interest No. 435433, Activity No. AMD200011) would expand the sewer service area (SSA) of the Gloucester County Utilities Authority (GCUA) (NJPDES No. NJ0024686) sewage treatment plant (STP) by 36 acres to serve a proposed 694,000 square foot building to include warehouse and office space to be located within Block 201, Lot 2 (portion) and Lot 3, in East Greenwich Township, Gloucester County. Currently, approximately 12.5 acres of the project property are located within the adopted GCUA SSA. The project will generate a projected wastewater flow of 28,350 gallons per day (gpd) based on flow calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3.

This notice represents the Department's determination that the proposed amendment is compliant with the applicable regulatory criteria at N.J.A.C. 7:15, as described below.

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In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.3(b), site specific amendments are limited to proposed alterations to the eligible SSA needed to address a specific project or activity. N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(j)2 requires that site specific amendments proposing to add 100 or more acres or generating 20,000 gpd or more of wastewater flow shall include a proposed modification to the wastewater treatment capacity analysis prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.5(b) to include the proposed project or activity. The proposed project involves less than 100 acres but would generate a total projected wastewater flow of 28,350 gpd (0.02835 million gallons per day (mgd)), based on flow calculations in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3. The purpose of the capacity analysis is to determine whether GCUA has available capacity to service the project. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.5(b)1, the existing wastewater flow at the GCUA STP, calculated as the highest consecutive 12-month rolling average during the five-year period preceding the amendment application (November 2015 to November 2020), is 21.794 mgd (June 2018-July 2019) based on NJPDES Discharge Monitoring Reports reported in DEP Data Miner (<https://www13.state.nj.us/DataMiner>.) The GCUA STP is currently permitted to discharge up to 27 mgd under NJPDES permit NJ0024686. As such, GCUA has capacity to accommodate the additional flow from the proposed project and not exceed its permitted capacity.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(d), the following are not eligible for delineation as SSA except as otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(i), (j), (k), and (l): environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) identified pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e), as any contiguous area of 25 acres or larger consisting of any of the following, alone or in combination: endangered or threatened wildlife species habitat, Natural Heritage Priority Sites, riparian zones of Category One (C1)

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waters and their tributaries, or wetlands; coastal planning areas identified at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(f);

and ESAs subject to 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(g). The

Department conducted an evaluation of the project site using a GIS shapefile provided by the

applicant compared to the Department's GIS data layers available at

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/listall.html> and/or other information as noted below, to determine

the presence of any such areas in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e), (f), and (g) and made the

following findings:

- The Department determined that the proposed SSA does not contain any areas mapped as endangered or threatened wildlife species habitat Rank 3, 4, or 5 on the Department's Landscape Maps of Habitat for Endangered, Threatened or other Priority Wildlife based on the "Landscape Project Data" Version 3.3 GIS data layers in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)1.
- The Department determined that the proposed SSA does not contain any areas mapped as Natural Heritage Priority Sites based on the "Natural Heritage Priority Sites" GIS data layer in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)2.
- The Department determined that the proposed SSA does not contain any C1 waters or 300-foot riparian zones along any C1 waters or upstream tributaries within the same HUC-14 watershed of any C1 waters based on the "Surface Water Quality Standards" GIS data layer in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:13-4.1(c)1 and 7:15-4.4(e)3.
- The Department determined that there are wetlands located on the project site based on the "Wetlands 2012" GIS data layer in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)4. However, pursuant

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to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(j)3, the applicant provided a Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation (LOI)/Line Verification File, 0803-06-0003.1, confirming that no contiguous area of wetlands, alone or in combination with other ESAs, of 25 acres or more, are located within the proposed SSA. A single isolated wetland, less than a quarter acre and not contiguous to the wetlands defined as ESAs, is identified within the proposed SSA.

- The Department determined that the proposed SSA does not contain any areas mapped as Fringe Planning Areas, Rural Planning Areas, or Environmentally Sensitive Planning Areas within the Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) zone based on the “CAFRA (polygon)” GIS layer and the “State Plan Data” GIS layer, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(f).
- The Department determined that there are no 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions applicable to the project based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) list of New Jersey Grantees with ESA Grant Conditions at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/environmentally-sensitive-area-esa-grant-condition-waiver-program-region-2> in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(g).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(h)1 and 2, the Department considered the land uses allowed in adopted zoning ordinances, future land uses shown in adopted municipal and county master plans. On September 15, 2020, the East Greenwich Township Combined Planning/Zoning Board adopted Resolution No. 15-2020, granting Preliminary and Final Major Site Plan approval to Knight Owl Holdings V, LLC, for Block 201, Lots 2 & 3 On September 22, 2021, the Gloucester County Planning Department provided a letter to the Department stating that the proposed project is consistent with the Gloucester County Master Plan.

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This notice is to inform the public that a plan amendment has been proposed for the Tri-County WQM Plan. All information related to this plan and the proposed amendment is located at:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration

Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater Permitting and Water Quality Management

Water Quality Management Planning Program

PO Box 420, Mail Code 501-02A

501 East State Street

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

The Department's file is available for inspection between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, upon request. An appointment to inspect the file must be arranged by calling the Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater Permitting and Water Quality Management at (609) 633-7021.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed amendment to the Department at the address cited above or at the email: wqmp.publiccomments@dep.nj.gov. Comments should reference Program Interest No. 435433, Activity No. AMD200011 and must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this public notice.

Interested persons may request in writing that the Department hold a nonadversarial public hearing on the amendment or extend the public comment period specified in this notice. Such requests should reference Program Interest No. 435433, Activity No. AMD200011 and must demonstrate sufficient public interest for the public hearing or extension of the comment period,

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as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:1D5.2(d). The request must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this notice to the Department address cited above. Should the Department decide to hold a public hearing, additional notice will be published in a future issue of the New Jersey Register and the comment period will be extended to 15 days after the public hearing. All comments submitted prior to the close of the comment period shall be considered by the Department before making a final decision on the proposed amendment.

Sewer service is not guaranteed should this amendment be adopted as it represents only one part of the permit process and other issues may need to be addressed. Inclusion in the SSA as a result of the approval of this amendment does not eliminate the need to obtain all necessary permits, approvals or certifications required by any Federal, State, county or municipal review agency with jurisdiction over this project/activity.

SIGNED

3/3/2022

Date

Gabriel Mahon, Bureau Chief

Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater Permitting and Water Quality Management
Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration
NJ Department of Environmental Protection