

NOTE: THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL. THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE MAY 5, 2025 NEW JERSEY REGISTER. SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THIS TEXT AND THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE PROPOSAL, THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL GOVERN.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WATERSHED AND LAND MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

Proposed Amendment to the Upper Raritan Water Quality Management Plan

Take notice that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is seeking public comment on a proposed amendment to the Upper Raritan 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 Walter & Kathleen Cook/Evergreen Farm (Program Interest No. 435434, Activity No. AMD210003) would expand the sewer service area (SSA) of the Readington-Lebanon Sewerage Authority (NJPDES No. NJ 0098922) by 0.0879 acres to serve an existing single family home located on a portion of Block 36, Lot 27, in Readington, Hunterdon County. The project will generate a projected wastewater flow of 300 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.

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

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or activity. The proposed project involves less than 100 acres of proposed SSA and will generate less than 20,000 gpd of wastewater flow; therefore, update of the wastewater treatment capacity analysis is not required.

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) 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 <https://gisdata-njdep.opendata.arcgis.com> 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 project site contains areas along Chambers Brook mapped as Rank 4 Red Shouldered Hawk habitat on the Department's Landscape Maps of Habitat for Endangered, Threatened or Other Priority Wildlife based on the "Landscape Project Data" Version 3.4 GIS data layers, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)1. However, the proposed SSA is to serve only the existing single family home. Therefore, as the home is already existing and there is no new impact, there will not be a new impact to threatened and endangered species habitat.

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- 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 upon the “Wetlands 2012” GIS data layer, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)4.; however, the proposed SSA is limited to the footprint of the existing single family home and does not contain any areas mapped as wetlands.
- 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).
- In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(g), the Department determined that there are applicable 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) list of New Jersey Grantees with ESA Grant Condition(s) at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/environmentally-sensitive-area-esa-grant-condition-waiver-program-region-2>. The proposed amendment would convey wastewater to the Readington-Lebanon Sewerage Authority, which is subject to a Federal ESA grant condition included in the grant agreement executed between Township of Readington and the USEPA under Project Number C-34-577. The ESA grant condition prohibits any sewer connection to

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Federally-funded facilities from any sewage-generating structure located on a parcel of property containing wetlands or within the 100-year floodplain unless a mapping revision or grant waiver is obtained from USEPA. Although the SSA proposed by this amendment does not contain wetlands or 100-year floodplains based on the “Wetlands 2012” GIS data layer and FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps, there are wetlands located on the property. A partial waiver was granted by EPA on March 5, 2024.

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, and other local land use objectives. The proposed amendment is to connect an existing home. In an email dated January 15, 2025, Hunterdon County confirmed the project was consistent with the County Growth Management Plan. In a letter dated January 27, 2025, the Township of Readington confirmed the project was consistent with the municipal zoning and Municipal Master Plan.

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

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Watershed and Land Management
Office of Policy and Technical Development
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 Office of Policy and Technical Development at (609) 633-7021.

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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. 435434, Activity No. AMD 210003 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. 435434, Activity No. AMD210003 and must demonstrate sufficient public interest for the public hearing or extension of the comment period, as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:1D-5.2(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.

3/13/2025
Date



Jason Kane, Assistant Director
Office of Policy and Technical Development
Watershed & Land Management
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection