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PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF WATER MONITORING AND STANDARDS

Adopted Amendment to the Lower Raritan/Middlesex County Water Quality Management Plan

Public Notice

Take notice that on **February 26, 2021**, pursuant to the provisions of 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 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) adopted an amendment to the Lower Raritan/Middlesex County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan. The amendment, identified as Suez Water Princeton Meadows Sewage Treatment Plant Expansion (Program Interest No. 435463, Activity No. AMD190001) updates the Plainsboro Township Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) in regard to the Suez Water Princeton Meadows (SWPM) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Permit No. NJ0024104, to allow for an increase in the permitted flow of the STP from 1.64 million gallons per day (MGD) to 1.70 MGD. The proposed plant upgrades consist of construction of a new treatment facility in the same location as the existing treatment plant. The amendment does not propose changes to the SWPM STP sewer service area (SSA) delineated on the map entitled "Map 3 Middlesex County Future Wastewater Service Area (FWSA)" adopted on March 11, 2015 (47 N.J.R. 733(b)).

This amendment updates the Suez Water Princeton Meadows description in the Existing Conditions section of the Plainsboro Township WMP to reflect an increase in flow to the SWPM STP. The

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existing SWPM STP accepts domestic wastewater from portions of Plainsboro Township and is currently permitted to discharge up to 1.64 million MGD of treated effluent to an unnamed tributary of Cranbury Brook, classified as FW2-NT. The proposed increase will enable the facility to meet its limitations for ammonia and total phosphorus imposed through its NJPDES permit in accordance with the allocations set forth in the "Total Maximum Daily Load Report For The Non-Tidal Raritan River Basin Addressing Total Phosphorus, Dissolved Oxygen, pH and Total Suspended Solids Impairments" (Raritan TMDL), which was adopted on May 24, 2016.

The new facility will retain the effluent discharge location to the unnamed tributary of Cranbury Brook.

Preliminary notice was published in the New Jersey Register on October 19, 2020, at 52 N.J.R. 1972(a) and a public hearing was held by Middlesex County, as the Designated Planning Agency, on December 9, 2020. No comments were received during the public comment period or at the public hearing. 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. 7:15-3.5(g)6, the Department instructed the applicant to request written statements of consent from Suez Water Princeton Meadows and Plainsboro Township. Suez Water Princeton Meadows adopted a resolution (unnumbered) on October 9, 2020, consenting to the proposed amendment. Plainsboro Township adopted Resolution 20-285 on November 9, 2020, consenting to the proposed amendment. The Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners, as the Designated WQM Planning Agency, adopted Resolution 21-211-R on February 4, 2021, approving the proposed amendment.

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In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.2(a) and (c), a change in the permitted flow not already addressed in a WQM plan requires a review of the WQM plan and that the Department shall not issue a permit or approval that conflicts with an adopted areawide plan. The amendment does not expand the existing SSA, therefore the requirements at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4 are not applicable. N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.5(b) requires that the existing and future wastewater management needs of each sewer service area of a domestic treatment works, or industrial wastewater facility that receives wastewater from outside the industrial facility boundaries, shall be identified and evaluated in a wastewater treatment capacity analysis. Pursuant to 7:15-4.5(b)1, for the assigned sewer service area, the applicant shall identify the existing and projected future flows that will be generated, the procedures by which to do so are laid forth in 7:15-4.5(b)1i. The analysis was performed using 10 years of NJPDES Discharge Monitoring Report (January 2009 through December 2018) flow data which found that the presently adopted sewer service area at build out would yield a projected flow of 1.693 MGD (1.477 MGD existing flow + 0.216 MGD future flow = 1.693 MGD build out flow). The projected future flow is rounded to 1.70 MGD.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 4.5 (b)8, the applicant submitted an antidegradation analysis in accordance with the antidegradation policies in the Surface Water Quality Standards at N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.5(d) to the Department for review which was subsequently approved. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-1 et seq., the Department will revoke and reissue the NJPDES Discharge to Surface Water Permit No. NJ0024104 to incorporate the facility's expanded flow from 1.64 MGD to 1.70 MGD, after the completion and construction of the new wastewater facility.

Sewer service or facility expansion is not guaranteed by adoption of this amendment since it represents only one part of the permit process and other issues may need to be addressed. Approval of

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this amendment would 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.

2/26/21

SIGNED

Date

Kimberly Cenno, Bureau Chief
Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration and Standards
Division of Water Monitoring and Standards