DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED AMENDMENT TO THE MERCER WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on MAY 13 2003 , pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Water Quality Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 58:11A-1 et seq., and the Statewide Water Quality Management Planning rules (N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4), an amendment to the Mercer County Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department). This amendment was submitted on behalf of the Washington Township Board of Education to seek approval for expansion of sewer service area to accommodate flow from proposed development. This development involves construction of a new high school at Block 5, Lots 19, 20, and 21 in Washington Township, Mercer County, New Jersey.

This site will generate a maximum of 25,000 gallons per day of wastewater. This wastewater will be conveyed to the Hamilton Township Water Pollution Control Utility from the existing Washington Township MUA for treatment and disposal. Washington Township currently has an agreement with Hamilton Township to accept and treat up to 2.5 million gallons of wastewater per day. The treated wastewater will be discharged to the Crosswicks Creek, which is classified as an FW2-NT waterbody. The Washington Township Wastewater Management Plan and the Hamilton Township Wastewater Management Plan are also amended as part of this proposal.

This amendment was reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 109 (2000) and N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.18. One of the required analyses under this order was a Depletive/Consumptive Water Use analysis. Potable water supply will come from an existing public water system with the New Jersey Water Company as the purveyor. The water source is the PRM aquifer, which is a confined aquifer. There is an existing water allocation permit for this withdrawal (#5286) that will not need modification. All wastewater will be treated by the Hamilton Township Water Pollution Control Utility prior to discharge to the Crosswicks Creek. This information satisfied the requirement for this analysis.

A Nonpoint Source Pollutant Loading analysis was also necessary for the additional expanded sewer service area. This was performed with the site broken up into different parts based on proposed usage. The analysis determined that the post-development conditions result in a decrease of nonpoint source pollutant loadings for total phosphorus, total nitrogen, and total suspended solids. Fertilizer use will also be minimized on-site and Best Management Practices will be utilized. Through land use changes and the use of the BMPs, pollutant loads are decreased at this location.

Another analysis that was required is the riparian corridor analysis. No disturbance is planned within 75 feet of the FW2-NT waters of the tributary to the Miry Run that is on the property. A stormwater

outfall that was previously planned to encroach upon this area was relocated so as not to disturb the riparian corridor. A Freshwater Wetlands General Permit and a Stream Encroachment Permit will be obtained for the area where this infrastructure will be installed in accordance with the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act and the Flood Hazard Area Control Act.

The final analysis that was required for this project is a hydro-modification analysis. The hydro-modification analysis includes study of flooding as well as groundwater and surface water recharge. The groundwater recharge analysis demonstrated that greater than 92 percent of the pre-construction infiltration rate would be maintained after development. Construction will also utilize prolonged detention of stormwater runoff on this site to reduce pre-construction runoff rates by more than 50 percent for a two-year storm, 75 percent for a ten-year storm, and 80 percent for a one hundred-year storm. These reductions should result in no increased flooding in this area. The stormwater management plan for this site is anticipated to result in an increase in the water quality of the stormwater runoff and a decrease the peak rate of runoff from the property. Infiltration has also been maximized on-site, with 92.9 percent of rooftop runoff infiltrated.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on October 7, 2002 at 34 N.J.R. 3538(b). No comments were received during the comment period.

This amendment represents only one part of the permit process and other issues may need to be addressed prior to final permit issuance. Additional issues which may need to be addressed may include, but are not limited to, the following: antidegradation; effluent limitations; water quality analysis; exact locations and designs of future treatment works (pump stations, interceptors, sewers, outfalls, wastewater treatment plants); and development in wetlands, flood prone areas, designated Wild and Scenic River areas, or other environmentally sensitive areas which are subject to regulation under Federal or State statutes or rules.

Lawrence J. Baier, Director
Division of Watershed Management
Department of Environmental Protection

May 13, 2003
Date