

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

AMENDMENT TO THE OCEAN COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on **AUG 27 1998**, 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 Ocean County Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department). This amendment provides a **wastewater management plan** (WMP) for the **northern portion of Ocean County** as well as the part of southern Monmouth County which is in the Ocean County Water Quality Management Planning Area. The wastewater flows from this portion of Monmouth County are conveyed to the Ocean County Utilities Authority (OCUA) - Northern Water Pollution Control Facility by the Manasquan River Regional Sewerage Authority. The WMP delineates future sewer service area of the wastewater treatment facilities within the WMP planning area. The WMP provides for an expansion of the OCUA - Northern Water Pollution Control Facility and its sewer service area. The future wastewater planning flow of the OCUA - Northern Water Pollution Control Facility provided for in this WMP is 32 million gallons per day (mgd). The current permitted wastewater flow for this facility is 28 mgd. Also mapped are the areas to be served by subsurface sewage disposal systems with wastewater planning flows of less than 2,000 gallons per day.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on February 17, 1998. No comments on this amendment were received during the public comment period. Certain government body and agency resolutions, however, contained comments. Those comments are summarized below with the Department's responses.

Comment: The Borough of Farmingdale and the Manasquan River Regional Sewerage Authority, while being in full support of the re-rating of the Ocean County Utilities Authority (OCUA) Northern Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) to 32 mgd, objected to the redirecting of flows designated for the OCUA Central WPCF to the OCUA Northern WPCF, due to a concern that the capacity at the OCUA Northern WPCF will be adversely affected.

Response: The WMP indicates metered wastewater flows to the OCUA Northern WPCF to be approximately 19 mgd. The current permitted flow for the facility is 28 mgd. In addition, the WMP provides for an expansion of the OCUA Northern WPCF to accommodate a wastewater planning flow of 32 mgd. The amount of wastewater flow that is being transferred from the OCUA Central WPCF sewer service area to the OCUA Northern WPCF sewer service area consists of 0.172 mgd, which will not adversely affect the total wastewater flow to the Northern facility.

Comment: Several governing body resolutions included comments supporting rerating of the OCUA Northern WPCF from 28 mgd to 32 mgd, as provided for in the WMP.

Response: The Department appreciates the comments.

Comment: Howell Township objected to the WMP because it reflects the policy and plans that were in place in 1992 instead of its current master plan and development regulations.

Response: Ocean County Planning Department staff worked with Howell Township's municipal planner to delineate the sewer service areas depicted in the WMP. The County was not aware that there were zoning changes during the interim period when the WMP was under review by the Department. When Howell Township advised the Ocean County Planning Department that there had been changes to the zoning ordinance, the Township was given an opportunity to propose changes to the sewer service area. When no response to that offer was received by the County, Ocean County Planning Department staff visited the Monmouth County Department of Planning to review the most current zoning ordinance filed with the Planning Board consistent with the Municipal Land Use Law. The Ocean County Planning Department's review of the file indicated that no substantial zoning changes had been made that would have changed the way the County would have designated the sewer service area. The clustering options which were the original basis for the sewer service area designation in the Township's ARE Zones are still available at the discretion of the Howell Township Planning Board.

In response, however, to Howell Township's concern, the following note of clarification was added to the WMP's sewer service area mapping: "Municipalities within the WMP Planning Area should also be consulted concerning their development-related requirements and zoning."

Comment: Howell Township commented that the proposal is inconsistent with the State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP) for the area which is largely rural and environmentally sensitive.

Response: While the Department encourages conformance with the SDRP, it does not mandate such conformance at this time. It should also be noted, as is discussed below, that the environmentally sensitive areas are provided protection by federal and state statutes and those requirements must be complied with.

Comment: Howell Township commented that the plan is inconsistent with the Department's policy against extending sewer infrastructure into environmentally sensitive areas.

Response: The WMP includes language stating that "Development in areas mapped as wetlands, floodprone areas, designated river areas, or other environmentally sensitive areas may be subject to special regulation under federal or state statutes and rules. The NJDEP should be contacted for the most current requirements. The depiction of environmental features within this WMP is for general information purposes only, and shall not be construed to define the legal jurisdiction of such statutes or rules."

Therefore, the WMP is not in conflict with Department policy concerning environmentally sensitive areas.

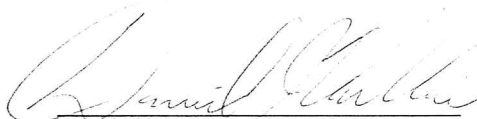
Comment: Howell Township took exception because it indicated that it was not contacted since 1992 regarding preparation of the WMP.

Response: When Howell Township's concerns pertaining to the WMP were raised during the public comment period, Ocean County Planning Department staff met with Township representatives to discuss the issues. On April 3, 1998, the Ocean County Planning Department sent a letter and two copies of the WMP mapping to Howell Township requesting that if the Township had changes that they would like to make to the map, they should indicate them on the maps and submit one copy to that department and the other to the Monmouth County Department of Planning. The Ocean County Planning Department received no response.

Comment: Howell Township will be involved with Monmouth County as that county prepares its WMP.

Response: While it is true that Howell Township will be involved in the Monmouth County WMP development process, the southern portion of the Township lies within, and is part of, the Ocean County Northern Planning Area WMP.

This amendment represents only one part of the permit process and other issues will be addressed prior to final permit issuance. Additional issues which were not reviewed in conjunction with this amendment but 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.



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Office of Environmental Planning
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Protection

27 August 1998
Date