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## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

### **WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

#### **DIVISION OF WATER MONITORING AND STANDARDS**

##### **Adopted Amendment to the Ocean County Water Quality Management Plan**

###### **Public Notice**

**Take notice** that on April 11, 2019, 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, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) adopted an amendment (Program Interest No. 435448, Activity No. 170004) to the Ocean County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan and Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) to change the discharge outfall location of the Plumsted Municipal Utilities Authority (PMUA) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP).

The Ocean County WMP adopted on December 30, 2015 (see 48 N.J.R. 231(a)) identifies a planned 0.6 million gallons per day (mgd) treatment plant for the New Egypt Town Center in Plumsted Township, Ocean County to be located in the vicinity of Route 537 and New Egypt-Allentown Road on Block 40, Lot 4 and a discharge adjacent to Crosswicks Creek. This outfall location was identified in New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permit No. NJ022627 issued on January 8, 2016 but was changed in a Major Modification to the NJPDES permit issued on August 28, 2017. The modified permit allows the WTP to discharge into the existing Ocean County stormwater drainage system, and from that location the effluent will flow through the County system and discharge from an existing headwall located approximately 50 feet east of the Creek. No changes to the effluent limitations or monitoring conditions were made under this permit modification. The use of the stormwater drainage system location will decrease the land disturbance that would have resulted with the original outfall location and is authorized

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under a “Hold Harmless Agreement” between PMUA and Ocean County executed on August 8, 2017. Preliminary notice of this amendment was published in the New Jersey Register on March 19, 2018 at 50 N.J.R. 1061(a). No comments were received during the public comment period.

This amendment has been reviewed in accordance with the Water Quality Management Planning rules at N.J.A.C. 7:15. This notice represents the Department’s determination that the amendment is compliant with the regulatory criteria at N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5 and 4.4 and serves as public notice of the Department’s final decision pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(g)11. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(d), sewer service may only be provided to areas that are not identified as environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs), certain coastal planning areas, or areas subject to US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions, except as otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(i) through (l). This amendment does not propose any changes to the sewer service area adopted on December 30, 2015 as part of the Ocean County WMP.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(h)1 and 2, the Department shall consider in the delineation of areas eligible for sewer service, the land uses allowed in zoning ordinances and future land uses shown in municipal or county master plans. This amendment does not propose any changes to the sewer service area adopted on December 30, 2015 as part of the Ocean County WMP. The change in discharge location does not require local land use approvals; however, it is supported by the agreement executed between PMUA and Ocean County that was described above.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(j)2, applicants for projects that propose to add 100 or more acres to the SSA, or where the additional SSA would generate 20,000 gpd or more of wastewater, must perform a modification to the wastewater treatment capacity analysis to include the proposed project or activity, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.5(b). This amendment does not propose any changes to the sewer service area

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adopted on December 30, 2015 as part of the Ocean County WMP; therefore, no wastewater treatment capacity analysis is required.

N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(g)6 requires the applicant to request a written statement of consent from all identified governmental entities, sewerage agencies, and Board of Public Utilities related sewer and water utilities that may be affected by, or otherwise have a substantial interest in, adoption of this amendment. Since this amendment was initiated by the Department, the Department requested a written statement of consent from PMUA and resolutions from the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Plumsted Township. On June 19, 2018, PMUA adopted Resolution 2018-13 in support of the amendment. On May 16, 2018, the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted Resolution 2018000613 in support of the proposed amendment. On June 6, 2018, Plumsted Township adopted Resolution 2018-195 in support of the proposed amendment. The Delaware River Basin Commission had previously approved the relocation of this discharge (see Docket #D-2015-002 CP-1).

Sewer service is not guaranteed by this amendment. This amendment represents only one part of the permit process and other issues may need to be addressed. Inclusion in the sewer service area 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.

4/11/19  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bruce S. Friedman, Director  
Division of Water Monitoring and Standards

