DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED AMENDMENT TO THE MEDFORD TOWNSHIP WMP AND TRI-COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Notice

Take notice that on DEC 20 2001 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 Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department).

This amendment, submitted by Ragan Design Group, identifies a new wastewater treatment facility to serve the proposed Hartford Square shopping center in Medford Township. Hartford Square is a proposed commercial development to be located on Block 401, Lot 14 and part of Lot 13. Wastewater generated on site would be treated and discharged to groundwater. The project site falls within the sewer service area of the Medford Township Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). At this time, the Medford STP has no capacity to serve the project site. This amendment removes the proposed shopping center sitefrom the Medford STP sewer service area.

The amendment submitted by Ragan Design Group proposed that the WQM plan be amended to allow a discharge to groundwater of 40,000 gallons per day (gpd), after treatment in two 20,000 gpd systems. The 40,000 gpd was based upon the flow projections in the Standards for Individual Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems, N.J.A.C. 7:9A-7.4, and a potential commercial square footage of 320,000 sq. ft. (320,000 sq. ft. x 0.125 gpd/sq. ft). However, the Township of Medford has granted site plan approval for only a portion of the development that was proposed in the amendment and has stipulated in its consent that the amendment approval should be limited to 20,000 gpd. Therefore, the amendment is adopted such that the discharge to groundwater will be limited to 20,000 gpd. Any additional flow would be the subject of a separate amendment action.

This amendment was reviewed with respect to Executive Order 109 (2000) and N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.18. There is no increase in sewer service area, therefore, riparian corridor and nonpoint source pollutant loading analyses were not required. Because this is a discharge to groundwater, analysis of anti-degradation will be addressed through NJPDES permit review. Water supply will be provided by a well accessing the Mt. Laurel-Wenonah aquifer. The amount of the withdrawal is below that which would require a State permit. This is a confined aquifer, therefore, no consumptive water use analysis is required.

This amendment proposal was noticed in the New Jersey Register on April 16, 2001. A comment from Medford Township on this amendment was received as part of the request for consent process and is summarized below with the Department's response.

Comment: According to Resolution 125-2001, consent for the proposed amendment was granted with the stipulation that the wastewater flow be limited to 20,000 gpd.

Response: The final adoption of the amendment has been modified to reflect the reduction in wastewater flow from 40,000 gpd to 20,000 gpd, as stipulated in Medford Township's consent resolution. In the event an increase in the flow to be generated by the site beyond 20,000 gpd is proposed, a separate amendment will be required.

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.

Mary T. Sheil, Director
Division of Watershed Management
Department of Environmental Protection

12/20/01
Date