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PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF WATER MONITORING AND STANDARDS

Adopted Amendment to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan

Public Notice

Take notice that on **April 16, 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 Tri-County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan. This amendment, identified as “Work Zone Contractors” (Program Interest No.435433, Activity No. AMD200001), expands the sewer service area (SSA) of the Gloucester County Utilities Authority (GCUA) by 1.25 acres for a proposed construction equipment storage yard consisting of 3,400 square feet of office space, a warehouse with 51 employees, and other related improvements on portions of Block 6, Lots 1, 6, and 7, Deptford Township, Gloucester County. A portion of the project site is already in the adopted SSA. As calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3, the project would generate a projected wastewater flow of 1,615 gallons per day (gpd) to be received by the GCUA Wastewater Treatment Plant (NJPDES No. NJ0024686).

Preliminary notice of this amendment was published in the New Jersey Register on December 7, 2020 at 52 N.J.R. 2139(a). No comments were received during the comment period. This notice

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represents the Department's determination that the 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. 7:15-3.3(b), site specific amendments are limited to alterations of the eligible SSA needed to address a specific project or activity. N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(j)2 requires that site specific amendments proposing to add 100 or more acres or generating 20,000 gpd or more of wastewater flow must update the wastewater treatment capacity analysis prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.5(b) to include the proposed project or activity. The proposed project involves less than 100 acres and will generate less than 20,000 gpd of wastewater; therefore, update of the wastewater treatment capacity analysis was not required.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(d), the following are not eligible for delineation as SSAs, except as otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(i), (j), (k) and (l): environmentally sensitive areas, (ESAs) identified under N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e) as a contiguous area of 25 acres or greater, alone or in combination, consisting of the following features: endangered or threatened wildlife species habitat, Natural Heritage Priority Sites, riparian zones of Category One (C1) waters and their tributaries, or wetlands; coastal planning areas identified under N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(f); and ESAs subject to 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions under N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(g). The Department conducted an evaluation of the project site using a GIS shapefile provided by the applicant compared to the Department's GIS data layers available at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/listall.html> and/or other information as noted below, to determine the presence of any such areas in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e), (f) and (g) and made the following findings:

- The Department determined that the expanded SSA does not contain areas mapped as Habitat for Endangered, Threatened or Other Priority Wildlife based on the "Landscape Project Data" Version 3.3 GIS data layers in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)1.

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- The Department determined that the expanded SSA does not contain any areas mapped as Natural Heritage Priority Sites based on the “Natural Heritage Priority Sites” GIS data layer in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)2.
- The Department determined that the expanded SSA does not contain any C1 waters or 300-foot riparian zones along any C1 waters or upstream tributaries within the same HUC 14 watershed of any C1 waters based on the “Surface Water Quality Standards” GIS data layer in accordance with and N.J.A.C. 7:13-4.1(c)1 and N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)3.
- The Department determined that, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)4, a review of the “Wetlands 2012” GIS data layer identified mapped wetlands located within the expanded SSA. However, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(j)3, the applicant provided a Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation/Line Verification (File #0802-19-0001.1 FWW190001) confirming that there are no wetlands within the expanded SSA.
- The Department determined that the expanded SSA does not contain any Coastal Fringe Planning Areas, Coastal Rural Planning Areas, or Coastal Environmentally Sensitive Planning Areas mapped on the CAFRA Planning Map based on the “CAFRA Layers” GIS layer in accordance with 7:15-4.4(f).
- The Department determined that there are no 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions applicable to the project site based on the USEPA list of New Jersey Counties with ESA Grant Conditions at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/environmentally-sensitive-area-esa-grant-condition-waiver-program-region-2> in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(g).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(h)1 and 2, the Department considered the land uses allowed in zoning ordinances and future land uses shown in municipal or county master plans and determined that the expanded SSA is consistent with land uses allowed by local zoning and the county and local master plans. On October 8, 2019, the Deptford Township Zoning Board of Adjustment passed Resolution #18-

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2019, granting the project preliminary site plan approval and bulk variance approval. In addition, in a letter dated March 24, 2020 from the Gloucester County Planning Division, the project was deemed consistent with the Gloucester County Development Management Plan's Goal Statements.

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 the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Delaware River Basin Commission, Deptford Township, Deptford Township Municipal Utilities Authority, Gloucester County Utilities Authority, and the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders. In an email dated December 17, 2020, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission stated that they took no position on the amendment. On December 7, 2020, Deptford Township adopted Resolution 206.20 consenting to the amendment. On January 13, 2021, the Gloucester County Utilities Authority adopted Resolution No. 2021-023 consenting to the amendment. The Deptford Township Municipal Utilities Authority, the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Delaware River Basin Commission did not respond to the request for consent.

Sewer service 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. Inclusion in the SSA resulting from adoption 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.

4/16/2021

SIGNED

Date

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