

NOTE: THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL. THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE February 4, 2019 NEW JERSEY REGISTER. SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THIS TEXT AND THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE PROPOSAL, THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL GOVERN.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

### **WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

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

**Adopted Revision to the Atlantic County, Cape May County, Lower Delaware, Lower**

**Raritan/ Middlesex County, Mercer County, Monmouth County, Northeast, Ocean County,**

**Sussex County, Tri-County, Upper Delaware and Upper Raritan Areawide Water Quality**

#### **Management Plans**

**Take notice** that on January 3, 2019, pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Water Quality Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 58:11A-1 et seq., and the Water Quality Management Planning rules at N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) adopted a revision to the Atlantic County, Cape May County, Lower Delaware, Lower Raritan/Middlesex County, Mercer County, Monmouth County, Northeast, Ocean County, Sussex County, Tri-County, Upper Delaware and Upper Raritan Water Quality Management (WQM) Plans. This revision establishes an alternative submission schedule of June 30, 2019 for all wastewater management plans (WMP) and WMP components required to be submitted to the Department under N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.2(b). Under N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.2(b), WMPs or WMP components for these counties were required to be submitted no later than May 7, 2018; however, due to numerous reasons, additional time was needed to complete these WMPs or WMP components, as explained below.

NOTE: THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL. THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE February 4, 2019 NEW JERSEY REGISTER. SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THIS TEXT AND THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE PROPOSAL, THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL GOVERN.

The following reasons were cited by WMP agencies for why additional time was needed to complete WMP submittals: execution of grant agreements between the Department and the counties to provide funding for WMP preparation took longer than anticipated; the approved work periods and award expiration dates in executed grant contracts extend beyond May 7, 2018; the lack of adequate staffing to perform the tasks or loss of key staff, such as the county GIS specialist; to allow for adequate opportunity for municipal review of draft WMP components; and to provide for coordination with adjacent WMP areas.

In response to requests received from the respective WMP agencies identified below, the Department discussed the anticipated additional time needed to complete the WMP or WMP components and distributed a letter dated September 17, 2018 to all affected counties and municipalities requesting comment on a proposed a revision to the above-referenced areawide WQM Plans establishing the following alternative submission schedules in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4(a)5, (c) and (f):

- November 7, 2018 for the Camden County WMP (Program Interest No. 435433, Activity No. REV180001) and the Monmouth County WMP (Program Interest No. 435462, Activity No. REV180001/Program Interest No. 435448, Activity No. REV180001);
- December 31, 2018 for the Atlantic County WMP (Program Interest No. 435445, Activity No. REV180001), Cumberland County WMP (Program Interest No. 435441, Activity No. REV180001), Hunterdon County WMP (Program Interest No. 435437, Activity No. REV180001/Program Interest No. 435434, Activity No. REV180001), and the Sussex

NOTE: THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL. THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE February 4, 2019 NEW JERSEY REGISTER. SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THIS TEXT AND THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE PROPOSAL, THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL GOVERN.

County Septic Maintenance Program Plan WMP (Program Interest No. 435459, Activity No. REV180001);

- March 1, 2019 for the Hudson County WMP (Program Interest No. 435442, Activity No. REV180001);
- March 18, 2019 for the Cape May County WMP (Program Interest No. 435464, Activity No. REV180003), Gloucester County WMP (Program Interest No. 435433, Activity No. REV180001), and the Somerset County WMP (Program Interest No. 435463, Activity No. REV180002/Program Interest No. 435442, Activity No. REV180001/Program Interest No. 435434, Activity No. REV180001); and
- June 28, 2019 for the Burlington County Septic Maintenance Program Plan WMP component (Program Interest No. 435433, Activity No. REV180001) and the Morris County WMP (Program Interest No. 435442, Activity No. REV180001/Activity No. REV180001/Program Interest No. 435437, Activity No. REV180001/Program Interest No. 435434, Activity No. REV180001).

Comments were received from Atlantic County, Somerset County, and Sussex County requesting additional extensions to the alternative submission schedule for many of the same reasons previously cited. In addition, the alternative schedules requested by some WMP agencies and granted in the draft revision notice expired before the revision was adopted. Based on additional communication with these WMP agencies, and to achieve consistency between areawide WQM plans and with the deadlines established in grants issued to several WMP agencies to fund preparation of WMPs and WMP components, the

NOTE: THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL. THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE February 4, 2019 NEW JERSEY REGISTER. SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THIS TEXT AND THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE PROPOSAL, THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL GOVERN.

Department is adopting a revision with minor changes, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4(g), establishing a uniform alternative submission schedule for all WMP agencies. The new schedule requires that all WMPs and WMP components required under N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.2(b) be submitted to the Department no later than June 30, 2019. This revision is effective immediately.

**1/3/2019**

Date

**SIGNED**

Bruce S. Friedman, Director

Division of Water Monitoring and Standards