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PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WATERSHED AND LAND MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Adopted Amendment to the Northeast, Upper Raritan and Lower Raritan/Middlesex County Water Quality Management Plans

Take notice that on December 5, 2024, 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 Northeast, Upper Raritan, and Lower Raritan/Middlesex County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plans. The amendment, identified as the “Somerset County Septic Management Plan” (Program Interest No. 435442, Activity No. AMD200004; Program Interest No. 435434, Activity No.200007; Program Interest No. 435463, Activity No. AMD200001) prepared by the Somerset County Department of Planning and submitted on behalf of the Somerset County Board of County Commissioners, adopts the Septic Management Plan (SMP) component of the Somerset County Wastewater Management Plan (WMP). In Somerset County the responsibility for the review and permitting of septic systems as well as septic management oversight consistent with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:9A rests with the municipal health departments. Although implementation of septic maintenance programs is primarily carried out by local authorities, as the WMP entity, the county is responsible for development of the WMP, of which the SMP is one component. The Somerset County Department of Planning, in coordination with Somerset County

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Health Officers Association and municipalities, developed the County SMP. The SMP is comprised of individual municipal chapters for each Somerset County municipality with facilities served by individual subsurface sewerage disposal systems (ISSDS). The SMP consists of an inventory of existing ISSDS, current septic management practices that promote care and maintenance of septic systems, and proposed improvements to the current septic management practices and future refinement of the ISSDS inventory.

Preliminary notice was published in the New Jersey Register on June 17, 2024, at 56 N.J.R. 1124(a) and a public hearing was held by Middlesex County, as the Lower Raritan/Middlesex County WQM Planning Area Designated Planning Agency, on July 17, 2024. No comments were received during the comment period. This notice represents the Department's determination that the amendment is in compliance with the regulatory criteria at N.J.A.C. 7:15.

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 Bedminster Township, Bernards Township, Bernardsville Borough, Bound Brook Borough, Branchburg Township, Bridgewater Township, Far Hills Borough, Franklin Township, Green Brook Township, Hillsborough Township, Millstone Borough, Montgomery Township, Peapack & Gladstone Borough, Warren Township, and Watchung Borough. The following municipalities adopted resolutions consenting to the proposed amendment: Warren Township adopted Resolution #2024-152 on June 13, 2024; Bedminster Township adopted Resolution #2024-089 on June 17, 2024; Bernards Township adopted Resolution #2024-0920 on June 25, 2024; Hillsborough Township adopted Resolution #R-216-2024 on July 16, 2024; Bernardsville Borough adopted Resolution #24-170 on August 12, 2024; Franklin Township adopted Resolution #24-288 on August 13, 2024; Peapack & Gladstone Borough adopted Resolution #166-24 on August 13, 2024; Watchung Borough adopted Resolution #R5 on

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August 15, 2024; Branchburg Township adopted Resolution #2024-185 on August 16 2024; and Green Brook Township adopted Resolution #2024-10-22 on October 21, 2024. Bound Brook Borough, Bridgewater Township, Far Hills Borough, Millstone Borough, and Montgomery Township declined to respond to the applicant's request for a statement of consent. The Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners, as the Designated WQM Planning Agency, adopted Resolution 24-1142-R on September 5, 2024, approving of the proposed amendment.

Adoption of this amendment represents only one part of the permit process and other issues may need to be addressed. 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.

12/5/2024

Date



Gabriel Mahon, Bureau Chief
Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater Permitting and Water Quality Management
Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration
NJ Department of Environmental Protection