

NOTE: THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL. THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE JUNE 17, 2024, NEW JERSEY REGISTER. SHOULD THERE BE ANY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THIS TEXT AND THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE AMENDMENT, THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL GOVERN.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WATERSHED AND LAND MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

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

Take notice that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is seeking public comment on a proposed amendment to the Northeast, Upper Raritan and Lower Raritan/Middlesex County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plans in accordance with 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 proposed 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, would adopt the Septic Management Plan 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

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is one component. The Somerset County Department of Planning, in coordination with Somerset County 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.

This notice represents the Department's determination that the amendment is in compliance with the regulatory criteria at N.J.A.C. 7:15.

This notice is to inform the public that a plan amendment has been proposed for the Northeast, Upper Raritan and Lower Raritan/Middlesex County WQM Plans. All information related to the proposed amendment is located at:

Middlesex County Department of Planning

75 Bayard Street, 5th Floor

New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

AND

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Watershed Protection & Restoration

Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater Permitting and Water Quality Management

Water Quality Management Planning Program

PO Box 420, Mail Code 501-02A

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501 East State Street

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

AND

Somerset County Office of Planning, Policy and Economic Development

Office of the County Administrator

P.O. Box 3000

20 Grove Street

Somerville, NJ 08876-1262

The Department's file is available for inspection between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, upon request. An appointment to inspect the file must be arranged by calling the Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater Permitting & Water Quality Management at (609) 633-7021.

The Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners, as the designated planning agency for the portion of Somerset County that is within the Lower Raritan/Middlesex County WQM planning area, requires that a public hearing be held for all WQM plan amendments under its jurisdiction. A public hearing will be held by the Middlesex County Commissioners on the proposed WQM Plan amendment. The public hearing will be held on July 17, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Middlesex County Commissioners Public Meeting Room, 1st Floor, of the Middlesex County Administration Building at 75 Bayard Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey. For additional information, please see the Middlesex County web page at:

<https://middlesexcountynj.primegov.com/public/portal?fromiframe=true&&committee=47>

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Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed amendment to the Department at the address cited above or at the email: wqmp.publiccomments@dep.nj.gov and to Middlesex County at the following address:

Mr. Nicholas Tufaro
Middlesex County Department of Planning
75 Bayard Street – 5th Floor
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

AND

Mr. Walter Lane, Director
Somerset County Office of Planning, Policy and Economic Development
Office of the County Administrator
P.O. Box 3000
20 Grove Street
Somerville, NJ 08876-1262

Comments should reference Program Interest No. 435442, Activity No. AMD200004; Program Interest No. 435434, Activity No.200007; Program Interest No. 435463, Activity No. AMD200001 and must be submitted within 15 days after the public hearing.

Interested persons may request in writing that the Department hold a nonadversarial public hearing on the amendment or extend the public comment period specified in this notice. Such requests

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should reference Program Interest No. 435442, Activity No. AMD200004; Program Interest No. 435434, Activity No.200007; Program Interest No. 435463, Activity No. AMD200001 and must demonstrate sufficient public interest for the public hearing or extension of the comment period, as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:1D-5.2(d). The request must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this notice to the Department address cited above. Should the Department decide to hold a public hearing, additional notice will be published in a future issue of the New Jersey Register and the comment period will be extended to 15 days after the Department's public hearing. All comments submitted prior to the close of the comment period shall be considered by Middlesex County and the Department before making a final decision on the proposed amendment.

Sewer service is not guaranteed should this amendment be adopted as it represents only one part of the permit process and other issues may need to be addressed. Inclusion in the SSA 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.

4/5/2024

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