

NOTE: THIS IS A COURTESY COPY OF THIS PLAN AMENDMENT ADOPTION. 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, THE OFFICIAL VERSION WILL GOVERN.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WATERSHED AND LAND MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Adopted Amendment to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan

Take notice that on May 3, 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 Tri-County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan. The amendment, identified as the “Mount Laurel Animal Hospital Expansion” (Program Interest No. 435433 Activity No. AMD230003) expands the sewer service area (SSA) of the Mount Laurel Municipal Utilities Authority (MLMUA) Hartford Road Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) (NJPDES No. NJ0025178) by 1.47 acres to serve an expansion of the existing Mount Laurel Animal Hospital located on Block 508, Lot 2, in Mount Laurel Township, Burlington County. The expansion will generate a projected wastewater flow of 1,155 gallons per day (gpd) based on flow calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3.

Preliminary notice was published in the New Jersey Register on February 20, 2024, at 56 N.J.R. 301(a). No comments were received during the comment period. This notice represents the Department’s determination that the amendment is compliant with the regulatory criteria at N.J.A.C. 7:15 as described below.

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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 Mount Laurel Township, the Mount Laurel Municipal Utilities Authority (MLMUA), Burlington County Board of County Commissioners, and Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC). Mount Laurel Municipal Utilities Authority adopted resolution no. 2024-02-34 on February 15, 2024, consenting to the amendment. Mount Laurel Township acknowledged receipt of the request but declined to issue an official statement of consent. In an email dated March 19, 2024, the County indicated that while it had no objections to the amendment, it would not be providing a statement of consent. In an email dated March 27, 2024, DVRPC stated they do not provide reviews for amendments or issue letters of consent.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.3(b), site specific amendments are limited to proposed alterations to 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 shall include a proposed modification to 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 of proposed SSA and will generate less than 20,000 gpd of wastewater flow; therefore, update of the wastewater treatment capacity analysis is not required.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(d), the following are not eligible for delineation as SSA, except as otherwise provided at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(i), (j), (k), and (l): environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) identified pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e), as any contiguous area of 25 acres or larger consisting of any of the following, alone, or in combination: endangered or threatened wildlife species habitat, Natural Heritage Priority Sites, riparian zones of Category One (C1) waters

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and their tributaries, or wetlands; coastal planning areas identified at N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(f), and; ESAs subject to 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions pursuant to 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 <https://gisdata-njdep.opendata.arcgis.com> 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 any areas mapped as endangered or threatened wildlife species habitat Rank 3, 4, or 5 on the Department's Landscape Maps of 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.
- 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 N.J.A.C. 7:13-4.1(c)1 and 7:15-4.4(e)3.
- The Department determined that there are wetlands located on the project site based on the "Wetlands 2012" GIS data layer, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(e)4. However, pursuant

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to N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(j)3, the applicant provided a Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation (LOI)/Line Verification (File #0324-07-0013.2 FWW160001) confirming that no contiguous area of wetlands, alone or in combination with other ESAs, of 25 acres or more are located within the SSA. Areas of isolated wetlands less than the 25-acre criteria threshold do exist within the SSA and the applicant has applied for a Freshwater Wetland Individual Permit (0324-07-0013.2 LUP22001) to authorize the disturbance of those wetlands.

- The Department determined that the expanded SSA does not contain any areas mapped as Fringe Planning Areas, Rural Planning Areas, or Environmentally Sensitive Planning Areas within the Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) zone based on the “CAFRA (polygon)” GIS layer and the “State Plan Data” GIS layer, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:15-4.4(f).
- The Department determined that there are no 201 Facilities Plan grant conditions applicable to the project based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) list of New Jersey Grantees 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).p

Sewer service is not guaranteed by the 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 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.

5/3/2024

SIGNED

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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