



## **New Jersey Pinelands Commission PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Pinelands Commission OKs agreement to eliminate source of pollution, improve water quality in Winslow Township, Camden County**

NEW LISBON, N.J. – During its regular meeting today, the Pinelands Commission approved an agreement that will eliminate a source of pollution within a Pinelands watershed in Winslow Township, Camden County.

"We are pleased to work with Winslow Township and the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority to reach an agreement that achieves two important objectives," said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Commission. "First, it will close a wastewater facility that is a source of pollution. Secondly, it will end a sewer ban, enabling Winslow to permit economic development in the non-Pinelands portion of the township."

Winslow Township is currently served by two wastewater treatment systems. The Cedarbrook system collects wastewater from within the Township's Pinelands Regional Growth Area, primarily within the Mullica River Basin. Wastewater from this system is conveyed to the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority's (CCMUA) facility in Camden City, where it is treated and discharged into the Delaware River. The Township's other wastewater system is located in Sicklerville, which serves only that portion of the Township outside of the Pinelands. Wastewater there is treated and discharged into lagoons where the treated wastewater percolates into the ground and recharges the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer. The treated wastewater contributes to the base flow of the headwaters of the Great Egg Harbor River that eventually flows through the Pinelands, adding a potentially significant source of pollutants within the Great Egg Harbor River Basin. The Sicklerville facility has reached its wastewater treatment and recharge capacity. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has prohibited Winslow from permitting additional sewer connections, precluding future growth in the non-Pinelands portion of the Township.

The agreement reached by the Commission, Winslow and the CCMUA will allow the Utilities Authority to close its Sicklerville plant and convey all wastewater from that facility to its Camden facility, where it will be treated and discharged into the Delaware River. In order to convey the wastewater to Camden for treatment, the CCMUA will connect the Sicklerville system to its regional sewage collection system by way of two parallel sanitary sewer lines. Once the CCMUA has begun conveying wastewater through the new sewer lines, it will cease discharging the Township's present and future wastewater at its Sicklerville facility, which will help to improve water quality in the region.

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The agreement also includes specific safeguards that will greatly reduce Winslow's use of water from the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer.

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