

In (b), substituted "(b)6" for "(b)5" in 1 through 4, added a new 5, and recodified former 5 as 6 and substituted "5" for "4" preceding "above"; in (g), added the third sentence in 3.

Public Notice: Amendments to county and regional water quality management plans.

36 N.J.R. 1611(b), 1611(c), 2085(a), 2940(a), 2940(b), 3436(a), 3436(b), 3437(a), 3591(a), 3591(b), 4178(a), 4542(b), 4846(a), 4846(b), 4848(b), 5165(a), 5168(a), 5170(a), 5171(a), 5458(b), 5458(c).

Public Notice: Amendment to county and regional water quality management plans.

See: 37 N.J.R. 141(b).

#### Case Notes

Where Department of Environmental Protection failed to act within 60 days upon county's petition to amend water quality management plan, builder had continuing right to seek legal recourse so long as Department failed to act. *Toll Bros., Inc. v. State, Dept. of Environmental Protection*, 242 N.J.Super. 519, 577 A.2d 845 (A.D.1990).

Failure to timely act on application to amend does not require automatic approval. *Toll Bros., Inc. v. State, Dept. of Environmental Protection*, 242 N.J.Super. 519, 577 A.2d 845 (A.D.1990).

Interested party may bring action to compel Department of Environmental Protection to act. *Toll Bros., Inc. v. State, Dept. of Environmental Protection*, 242 N.J.Super. 519, 577 A.2d 845 (A.D.1990).

#### 7:15-3.5 Water quality management plan review, revision, and certification

(a) The Department and the designated planning agencies shall periodically review Statewide and areawide WQM Plans in order to propose appropriate amendments under N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4, and to prepare appropriate revisions under this section.

(b) The Department and the designated planning agencies shall prepare revisions to Statewide and areawide WQM Plans under this section whenever such revisions are necessary to:

1. Correct, clarify, or update erroneous, unclear, or outdated statements in Statewide and areawide WQM Plans regarding:

i. Development and wastewater treatment facilities existing at the time of the most recently adopted areawide WQM plan or amendment affecting the site; or

ii. Proposed projects, provided that all other Department approvals were received, in full compliance with applicable regulations, at the time of the most recently adopted areawide WQM plan or amendment affecting the site;

2. Transfer or assign wastewater management plan responsibility under N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.13;

3. Revise schedules for submission of wastewater management plans under N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.23(g);

4. Provide for the following substantive changes in Statewide and areawide WQM plans where the Department determines no significant individual or cumulative impacts will occur to environmentally sensitive areas or other natural resources (such as water supplies) due to the proposed revision (individually or in combination with past revisions in the area), that the changes are consistent

with N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.6 and 3.7, and that certain directly affected municipal and county agencies and other interests as identified by the Department have been provided an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed revision:

i. Any increase in flow (including both increased loadings and no increased loadings) from industrial treatment works where no change in service area or discharge type (for example, discharge to surface water or ground water) is proposed and the discharge is not to a waterbody segment for which a TMDL has been proposed or adopted under N.J.A.C. 7:15-7. The Department may process such revisions prior to or simultaneously with a NJPDES permit for the same change in flow;

ii. The transfer of sewer service area from one domestic treatment works to another, provided that the approved sewer service areas in the areawide WQM plan are currently contiguous in the area to be transferred, neither domestic treatment works is subject to a sewer connection ban, the proposed revision includes only areas currently designated for sewer service, both the sending and receiving wastewater management planning agencies concur with the proposed revision, and no new or expanded treatment works other than sewer line extensions is proposed as part of the revision;

iii. Any increase of 20,000 gpd or less in planned wastewater flow to an on-site NJPDES-permitted discharge to ground water for a school or public institution, using the same general type of treatment works (for example, direct discharge to ground water, spray irrigation);

iv. Any change in the estimated wastewater flow (see N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.16(b)8) or design capacity (see N.J.A.C. 7:15-5.16(b)9) to a NJPDES-permitted discharge to ground water from less than 20,000 gpd to more than 20,000 gpd, provided (b)4v below is satisfied and the same general type of treatment works is proposed;

v. Expansion of a future sewer service area to contiguous lots, where the expansion involves less than 100 acres, contributes less than 8,000 gallons per day of additional wastewater flow, and does not create a significantly new pattern of sewer development such that a significant potential or incentive is created for additional revisions or amendments to open new areas to sewer development;

5. Provide for any modification in an adopted regional stormwater management plan that does not require an amendment under N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4(b)5.

(c) The documents that are automatically adopted into the Statewide or areawide WQM Plans under N.J.A.C.

7:15-3.4(b)1 through 4, and 7:15-3.4(i) shall not be revised under this section.

(d) The procedure for revision of Statewide and areawide WQM plans is as follows:

1. The Governor or his designee shall adopt revisions to areawide WQM plans and the Commissioner shall adopt revisions to the Statewide WQM Plan. Such revisions shall take effect immediately, unless the adoption notice specifies otherwise.

2. The Department shall, on an annual basis, make publicly available a list of adopted revisions to WQM plans. Under N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4, interested persons may submit petitions to amend WQM plans to repeal or modify such revisions.

(e) Designated planning agencies shall revise areawide WQM Plans in accordance with procedures established by such agencies and approved by the Department. All revisions to areawide WQM plans are valid only upon their adoption by the Governor or his designee.

(f) The Governor or his designee shall certify adopted WQM Plans in accordance with United States Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

Administrative Correction to (b)3: Changed 5.24(g) to 5.23(g).

See: 22 N.J.R. 2001(b).

Amended by R.1997 d.108, effective May 5, 1997.

See: 28 N.J.R. 729(a), 28 N.J.R. 2779(a), 28 N.J.R. 3494(a), 28 N.J.R. 3858(a), 29 N.J.R. 2142(a).

Added (b)1i and ii; added (b)4; and in (c), amended N.J.A.C. references.

Amended by R.2004 d.48, effective February 2, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 119(a), 35 N.J.R. 1328(a), 36 N.J.R. 670(a).

In (b), added 5.

#### **7:15-3.6 Coordination with Coastal Zone and Hackensack Meadowlands programs**

(a) In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:7E-1.2(h), the Department's Rules on Coastal Zone Management, N.J.A.C. 7:7E, including, but not limited to, provisions concerning the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission at N.J.A.C. 7:7E-1.5(a) and 7:7E-3.45, shall provide the basic policy direction for WQM planning in the New Jersey Coastal Zone defined at N.J.A.C. 7:7E-1.2(b), including, but not limited to, the Hackensack Meadowlands District described in N.J.S.A. 13:17-4.