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DECLARATION OF POLICY
RARITAN RIVER POLLUTION
BY THE
NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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WHEREAS, The Department of Health of the State of New Jersey, on
June 10, 1941, resolved as follows:

"BE IT RESOLVED, By the Department of Health of the State of New Jersey, at a meeting held on the tenth day of June, A. D., one thousand nine hundred and forty-one, that for the purpose of abating and controlling the existing pollution and future pollution of that section of the Raritan River between its confluence with the Millstone River and Victory Bridge connecting Perth Amboy and South Amboy, and its tributaries emptying into it between those points, so that the waters thereof shall not be polluted in such manner as to cause or threaten injury to any of the inhabitants of this State, either in their health, comfort or property, the said section of the said Raritan River and its tributaries emptying therein shall be divided into two zones, to wit:

"Zone I: Zone I shall be that part of the Raritan River and its tributaries emptying therein extending from its confluence with the Millstone River to the Fieldville (5 mile) dam.

"Zone II: Zone II shall be that part of the Raritan River and its tributaries emptying therein extending from the Fieldville (5 mile) dam to the Victory Bridge connecting Perth Amboy and South Amboy; and,

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no domestic sewage, industrial wastes or other polluting matter shall be discharged into, or permitted to flow or fall into, or be placed in the waters of the respective zones of the Raritan River and its tributaries unless such domestic sewage, industrial wastes or other polluting matter shall first have been so treated as to produce an effluent which will meet the following minimum requirements:

"ZONE I

"1. The effluent shall contain no free acidity; that is, all titratable acidity shall be neutralized.

- "2. The effluent shall be free of noticeable floating solids, scum, oil, grease, or sleek.
- "3. The effluent shall be sufficiently free of color or turbidity, or both, so that after dispersion in the receiving waters, or not more than one thousand (1,000) feet above or below the point of effluent discharge, it will not noticeably discolor or add to the turbidity of the receiving waters.
- "4. The effluent shall be free of caustic alkalinity or other toxic or deleterious substances.
- "5. The effluent shall be free of offensive odors.
- "6. The effluent shall be of such quality that organisms of the Coli-aerogenes group shall be present in not more than twenty per centum (20%) of the one (1) cubic centimeter portions examined from any one sample or any series of samples of effluent tested. For the purpose of the test for organisms of the Coli-aerogenes group a sample shall consist of five (5) one (1) cubic centimeter portions.
- "7. The effluent shall have a biochemical oxygen demand not exceeding in the average over any four (4) hour period of a day one hundred (100) parts per million and not exceeding at any time one hundred and twenty-five (125) parts per million.

"Zone II

- "1. The effluent shall contain no free acidity; that is, all titratable acidity shall be neutralized.
- "2. The effluent shall be free of noticeable floating solids, scum, oil, grease, or sleek.
- "3. The effluent shall be sufficiently free of color or turbidity, or both, so that after dispersion in the receiving waters, or not more than one thousand (1,000) feet above or below the point of effluent discharge, it will not noticeably discolor or add to the turbidity of the receiving waters.

- "4. The effluent shall be free of caustic alkalinity or other toxic or deleterious substances.
- "5. The effluent shall be free of offensive odors.
- "6. The effluent shall be of such quality that organisms of the Coli-aerogenes group shall be present in not more than twenty per centum (20%) of the one (1) cubic centimeter portions examined from any one sample or any series of samples of effluent tested. For the purpose of the test for organisms of the Coli-aerogenes group a sample shall consist of five (5) one (1) cubic centimeter portions.
- "7. The effluent shall have a biochemical oxygen demand not exceeding in the average over any four (4) hour period of a day one hundred and fifty (150) parts per million and not exceeding at any time one hundred and seventy-five (175) parts per million; and,

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all analyses and tests regarding the minimum requirements herein prescribed shall be performed in accordance with the procedures contained in the latest edition of 'Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Sewage,' prepared, approved, and published jointly, by the American Public Health Association and the American Water Works Association; and,

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution is subject to such revision from time to time as the Department of Health of the State of New Jersey may determine to be necessary or advisable for the abatement or control of the pollution of the waters of the Raritan River and its tributaries in such manner that such pollution shall not cause or threaten injury to any of the inhabitants of this State, either in their health, comfort or property; and,

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution shall not repeal the resolution adopted by the Department of Health of the State of New Jersey at a meeting held on November 15, 1938, establishing a policy relating to stream pollution, the source of which was not created, established, caused or maintained prior to November 15, 1938.";

and

WHEREAS, The State Department of Health of the State of New Jersey has found and determined that industrial expansion and population growth have resulted in concentrations and volumes of industrial wastes and domestic sewage in the Raritan Valley so as to cause or threaten injury to inhabitants of this State, either in their health, comfort or property; and

WHEREAS, The State Department of Health of the State of New Jersey is of the opinion that it is impractical, at this time, because of the limitations of known methods of treatment of industrial wastes and domestic sewage, to continue to dispose of said wastes and sewage into the Raritan River unless the river is to be dedicated for use primarily as a means of dilution of wastes and sewage; and, is therefore of the further opinion that, in order to prevent injury or threatened injury to the people of the Raritan Valley in their health, comfort or property, the said industrial wastes and domestic sewage should be collected and transmitted down the valley for treatment prior to discharge to a larger body of dilution water; and,

WHEREAS, The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Middlesex of the State of New Jersey on July 20, 1950 appointed, pursuant to Chapter 138, P. L. 1946, the "Sewerage Authorities Law", the Middlesex County Sewerage Authority to study the feasibility of means of solving the waste disposal problems of the lower Raritan Valley, including the study of a trunk sewer proposal employing

treatment at the lower end of the valley and ultimate disposal satisfactory to the State Department of Health; and,

WHEREAS, It now has become incumbent upon the State Department of Health of the State of New Jersey to review its position in the enforcement of the stream pollution laws of this State, particularly R. S. 58:12-3, as related to the Raritan Valley, in order that the said Middlesex County Sewerage Authority and the municipalities and industries of the valley may be guided in their deliberations; and,

WHEREAS, The State Department of Health of the State of New Jersey is of the opinion that revision of the aforesaid resolution adopted by the Department of Health of the State of New Jersey on June 10, 1941 is necessary as provided by said resolution; therefore,

The State Department of Health of the State of New Jersey hereby amends the resolution adopted on June 10, 1941 by the Department of Health of the State of New Jersey so that the "minimum requirements" established thereby are as follows:

ZONE I

1. The effluent shall contain no free acidity; that is, all titratable acidity shall be neutralized.
2. The effluent shall be free of noticeable floating solids, scum, oil, grease, or sleek.

3. The effluent shall be sufficiently free of color or turbidity, or both, so that after dispersion in the receiving waters, or not more than one thousand (1,000) feet above or below the point of effluent discharge, it will not noticeably discolor or add to the turbidity of the receiving waters.
4. The effluent shall be free of caustic alkalinity or other toxic or deleterious substances.
5. The effluent shall be free of offensive odors.
6. The effluent shall be of such quality that organisms of the coliform group shall be absent in at least eighty per centum (80%) of the one (1) cubic centimeter portions examined from any one sample or any series of samples of effluent tested. For the purpose of the test for organisms of the coliform group a sample shall consist of five (5) one (1) cubic centimeter portions.
7. The effluent shall have a biochemical oxygen demand not exceeding in the average over any four (4) hour period of a day seventy (70) parts per million and not exceeding at any time ninety (90) parts per million.

ZONE II

1. The effluent shall contain no free acidity; that is, all titratable acidity shall be neutralized.
2. The effluent shall be free of noticeable floating solids, scum, oil, grease, or sleek.

3. The effluent shall be sufficiently free of color or turbidity, or both, so that after dispersion in the receiving waters, or not more than one thousand (1,000) feet above or below the point of effluent discharge, it will not noticeably discolor or add to the turbidity of the receiving waters.
4. The effluent shall be free of caustic alkalinity or other toxic or deleterious substances.
5. The effluent shall be free of offensive odors.
6. The effluent shall be of such quality that organisms of the coliform group shall be absent in at least eighty per centum (80%) of the one (1) cubic centimeter portions examined from any one sample or any series of samples of effluent tested. For the purpose of the test for organisms of the coliform group a sample shall consist of five (5) one (1) cubic centimeter portions.
7. The effluent shall have a biochemical oxygen demand not exceeding in the average over any four (4) hour period of a day one hundred (100) parts per million and not exceeding at any time one hundred and twenty-five (125) parts per million; and,

The State Department of Health of the State of New Jersey hereby declares that, in accordance with its policy of aiding the citizens of this State in the promotion of public health and

facilities designed to protect the public health, it believes domestic sewage and industrial wastes produced in the lower Raritan Valley should be collected and transmitted down the valley by means of a trunk sewer with satisfactory treatment and disposal at or in the vicinity of the Raritan Bay; and, The State Department of Health of the State of New Jersey declares further that the construction of a trunk sewer in the lower Raritan Valley and a satisfactory treatment plant discharging an effluent to Raritan Bay would indicate the desire and determination of the citizens of the valley that the Raritan River and the Raritan Bay be restored to conditions suitable for recreation, including fishing and bathing; and, since the intended use of a stream is a primary consideration in the establishment of standards of quality of effluents to be discharged thereto, the said Department would be obligated, upon construction of said trunk sewer and treatment plant to impose more stringent standards than those herein provided; and, said more stringent standards would specify, as a minimum, for both Zone I and Zone II that the effluents not collected by the trunk sewer have a biochemical oxygen demand not exceeding in the average over any four (4) hour period of a day forty (40) parts per million and not exceeding at any time fifty (50) parts per million.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Daniel Bergsma, M.D., M.P.H.
State Commissioner of Health

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