



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK &amp; PLANNING

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL  
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760MCPB  
ITEM # 3  
11/8/01

November 2, 2001

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Jeff Zyontz, Chief  
County-wide Planning Division

Jorge A. Valladares, P.E. Chief  
Environmental Planning/County-wide Planning Division

FROM: Nazir Baig, P.E., Supervisor, County-wide Planning Division (301) 495-4549

SUBJECT: Town of Poolesville  
Wastewater Treatment Plant BNR Upgrades and Expansion  
Amendments to County's Water and Sewer Systems Plan

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Board concur with the County Executive's recommendation to:

- Approve amendments to the indicated sections Chapter 3
- Approve amendments to the indicated sections Chapter 4

## DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The town of Poolesville is requesting an amendment to Montgomery County's Comprehensive *Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan*. This amendment would enable the town to receive a revised National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES permit) to reflect an increase in treatment capacity from 625,000 gallons per day to 750,000 gallons per day. It is expected that the new permit would require nitrogen removal using Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) technology resulting in a total nitrogen concentration of 8 milligrams per liter, as recommended by Chesapeake Bay goals. The Maryland Department of the Environment has agreed to provide a grant of 50 % of all costs associated with enhancements to the wastewater treatment plant. The town has currently received preliminary approval for \$500,000 from the department for the upgrade.

The town had retained the services of Chester Engineers of Gaithersburg, Maryland to develop a preliminary Engineering Report (October 1999). The town has also been coordinating their efforts with the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The County Council have scheduled a public hearing on November 13, 2001.

The staff of county DEP has coordinated the proposed text amendments for both water supply and sewerage systems and would be available to answer any technical questions from the Board. From a planning perspective, there are several items which we would like to apprise the Board:

### ***Growth and Impact on the Agricultural Plan***

The town's current six-year master plan published in March 1996 calls for an ultimate population of 7,500 but establishes a firm growth limit of 5,500 for the life of the current plan. The 2000 census data indicates that the town's population was 5,151. The town expects to revisit the plan for the year 2005 and beyond, when it updates the master plan in 2002.

There is no request for an expansion of the existing sewer envelope. The increased sewage treatment capacity would serve modest growth (up to approximately 5,500 population) and address infiltration and inflow problems within the existing envelope. Thus, staff is of the opinion that there are no significant issues that impact the Agricultural and Rural Open Space Master Plan and there do not appear to be plans to annex properties in Montgomery County.

### ***Additional Sewage Capacity for Jonesville Jerusalem Area***

The amendment allows for continued support of existing development and limited expansion to serve existing vacant properties in the old Jonesville /Jerusalem communities with known failing septic problems. The expanded policies will not support multiple-lot subdivision of existing properties. The service will be governed to include any of the following three circumstances.

1. A single permitted sewer connection previously approved by WSSC;
2. A single connection for an existing house or its replacement; or
3. A single sewer connection for an existing, vacant property.

### ***Water Quality in Dry Seneca Creek***

The sewage treatment plant discharges its effluent to Dry Seneca Creek. The Montgomery County DEP has been monitoring this stream for fish and macroinvertebrate indices. It received an over-all poor water quality rating. Among the probable causes may be poor inflow and infiltration control measures, shortened detention time and inadequate treatment causing biological stresses in the Dry Seneca Creek. The amendment requires the town to conduct further water quality analysis on the plant out-fall as well as down stream area in Montgomery County.

In conclusion, staff has determined that these amendments are consistent with the policies of the *Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan* and the Chesapeake Bay 2000 agreement and recommend that the Planning Board endorse them in its transmittal to the County Council.

#### **Attachments**

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