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**LAND USE MANAGEMENT****Notice of Extension of Chapter Expiration Date  
Surface Water Quality Standards****N.J.A.C. 7:9B**

Take notice that Acting Governor Richard J. Codey has been informed by the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) that the Surface Water Quality Standards, N.J.A.C. 7:9B, are due to expire on April 17, 2005.

The State is required to establish the Surface Water Quality Standards (SWQS) by Federal law. The SWQS specify the quality of water needed to support the various uses of the State's surface waters (for example, water supply, primary contact recreation, maintenance of natural aquatic biota and ecosystems) and establish policies intended to protect, maintain and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the surface waters. The SWQS are the basis for assessing water quality conditions, developing a list of impaired waters, and establishing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) to restore water quality. The SWQS are used by other Department programs to regulate activities that impact water quality.

The Department is preparing to propose to readopt the SWQS with amendments. The amendments would modify the antidegradation policies and antidegradation designations to support smart growth initiatives and update the surface water quality criteria for aquatic life and human health protection based on state-of-the-science risk assessment. The Department requested an extension of the expiration date from April 17, 2005, to August 17, 2005 in order to finalize its proposal to readopt the SWQS with the noted amendments.

Therefore, by the authority vested in him, Acting Governor Richard J. Codey, on April 15, 2005, directed that the expiration date for the existing rules be extended from April 17, 2005 to August 17, 2005.

NJ Register

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37 NJR 1887