

Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority (SRVSA)
Title V Operating Permit (TVOP) No. BOP190001 Renewal Application
AO 2021-25 Compliance Statement / Project Summary

On September 18, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy signed the New Jersey Environmental Justice Law (NJSA 13:1D-157) which requires the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to evaluate the environmental and public health impacts of certain facilities on overburdened communities when reviewing certain permit applications. NJDEP's Administrative Order (AO) 2021-25, issued September 22, 2021, establishes the process for public hearings and compliance with the Environmental Justice Law. Per NJAC 7:1C-2.1(c), any complete application submitted to NJDEP prior to April 17, 2023 is not subject to NJDEP's Environmental Justice Rules at NJAC 7:1C and therefore, the SRVSA is required to operate under the public hearing requirements of AO 2021-25.

On November 15, 2018, SRVSA submitted to NJDEP a renewal application for the site's major source air permit (i.e., TVOP No. BOP1900001), which is pending. Bridgewater Township, Somerset County, New Jersey is designated as an overburdened community under the Environmental Justice Law. The renewal of an existing major source air permit issued under New Jersey's Air Pollution Control Act (NJSA 26:2C-1), for a facility within an overburdened community, triggers the requirement for a public hearing under AO 2021-25.

This public hearing is therefore being held to satisfy the requirements of AO 2021-25. Specifically, the following conditions shall be met:

1. The public comment period will be no less than sixty (60) days, and shall be extended to ninety (90) days upon request by a member of the overburdened community.
2. The public hearing will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Environmental Justice Law so as to maximize public participation (i.e., an in-person hearing to be held in the overburdened community with additional virtual options available).
3. During the extended public comment period, those providing public comment, whether verbally or in writing, are encouraged to provide information regarding existing conditions within the overburdened community and potential facility-wide environmental and public health stressors that could result in adverse impacts upon the overburdened community in the event of an approval.
4. SRVSA will respond to and address the concerns raised by individuals in the overburdened community during the public comment process and will conduct any additional analysis related thereto that NJDEP deems necessary for its review of the application and evaluation of the concerns raised during the public comment period.

5. SRVSA will engage with the overburdened community in advance of and in addition to formal public comment including providing relevant information related to facility-wide impacts. Advance public notice has been provided in a local newspaper within the overburdened community. Interested parties are encouraged to review the complete TVOP Renewal Application, along with accompanying documents, either online at https://srvsa.org/?page_id=36 or in printed copies as available at the following depository:

Somerset County Library, Bridgewater Branch, 1 Vogt Dr., Bridgewater, NJ

6. Where permits or approvals may be issued, NJDEP will apply such special conditions as may be necessary to avoid or minimize environmental or public health stressors upon the overburdened community to the maximum extent allowable by law.

The requested renewal of its current Title V Air Permit would allow the Authority to continue to operate Fluidized Bed Incinerator R2 and its components, in addition to other ancillary and insignificant sources, as previously permitted. SRVSA has operated a Fluidized Bed Incinerator at the same location since the 1970's. There are no facility expansions and no environmental and/or health impacts resulting from the TVOP renewal. As part of the TVOP renewal process, SRVSA seeks to make other various administrative updates to the air permit. The SRVSA continues to meet the needs of its ratepayers while complying with all NJDEP and USEPA environmental regulations to protect public health and the environment. The SRVSA thanks our local community for your engagement with this process and looks forward to continuing public collaboration to achieve the shared goal of minimizing environmental health stressors.