

RECORD OF COMMENTS

Pertaining to the action of the Central Midlands Regional Council of Governments (CMCOG) to amend their 208 Water Quality Management Plan

The Board of the Central Midlands Council of Governments (CMCOG), on March 22, 2001, amended their 208 Water Quality Management Plan to include the following language:

1. Amend the areawide 208 Plan to enlarge the I-20 Wastewater Treatment Facility to 990,000 gallons and to designate it as a permanent treatment plant, subject to its upgrade to tertiary wastewater treatment designed with the following limits at 990,000 gallons:

	<u>DAILY</u>	<u>WEEKLY</u>
BOD5	10 mg/l	1.5 mg/l
TSS	10 mg/l	1.5 mg/l
NH	10 mg/l	1.5 mg/l

2. Amend the areawide 208 Plan to extend the operation of the Coventry Woods Wastewater Treatment facility until January, 2006.

The amendment was forwarded to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for review and concurrence on April 10, 2001. As part of the amendment process, public comment was received and considered by both CMCOG and DHEC. CMCOG held a public informational meeting concerning the amendment on February 21, 2001. The 6:00 pm meeting was held at the COG office on Stoneridge Dr., Columbia. The meeting was heavily attended. From those that submitted oral or written comments, CMCOG staff counted 70 in favor of the amendment, 40 against it. After receipt of the amendment for consideration (between April 10 and July 22, 2001), DHEC received 49 comments either by letter or e-mail, one in favor of the amendment and 48 against it. A list of those commenters is attached.

Comments provided to CMCOG during and after the public informational meeting represented two clearly opposite views. Virtually all of those that commented in favor of the amendment were residents of the Carolina Water Service owned I-20 sewage treatment facility service area and cited potentially higher sewer bills if the Town of Lexington eliminated the system. Those that commented against the amendment cited failure to implement the goals of the 208 Plan, diminished water quality in the Saluda River and loss of recreational use of the resource.

Comments provided to DHEC were overwhelmingly against the amendment. Commenters against the amendment did not want to see the I-20 sewage treatment facility made a permanent discharger to the Saluda River. Diminished water quality in the Saluda River, loss of recreational use of the river, and failure to implement the goals of the 208 Plan were cited as reasons. One comment letter was received in favor of the amendment. The commenter focused on legal issues and indicated that the CMCOG decision should be a

final one, with no interference from DHEC.