Public Notice – Environmental Regulation

Notice of intended action: The State Water Control Board intends to consider drafting a proposal for the adoption of a regulation on water quality. A regulation is a general rule governing people’s rights or conduct that is upheld by a state agency.

Regulation name: General VPDES Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (VAR04)

Purpose of notice: The board is seeking comments through the Department of Environmental Quality on the intended regulatory action, including but not limited to 1) ideas to assist the board in the development of a proposal 2) the costs and benefits of the alternatives stated in the agency background document or other alternatives and 3) effects of the regulation on farm or forest land preservation. The board is also seeking information on impacts on small businesses.

Public comment period: July 11, 2016 to August 10, 2016

Public comment stage: Notice of Intended Regulatory Action

Subject matter and intent of proposal: This rulemaking is proposed in order to amend and reissue the General VPDES Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (VAR04) regulation. The general permit governs local governments and state and federal agencies that discharge stormwater from municipally owned separate storm sewer systems. The regulatory action is needed in order to reissue the general permit, which expires on June 30, 2018. The general permit will establish best management practices and minimum control measures for point source discharges of stormwater from municipally owned separate storm sewer systems as well as address Chesapeake Bay and local TMDL reduction requirements.

Advisory panel: The Board is using a technical advisory committee to develop a proposal. Persons interested in assisting in the development of a proposal should notify the department contact person by the end of the comment period and provide their name, address, phone number, email address and the organization they represent (if any). The primary function of the advisory committee is to develop recommended regulation amendments for Department consideration through the collaborative approach of regulatory negotiation and consensus. Multi-applications from a single company, organization, group or other entity count as one for purposes of making the decision specified in the preceding sentence. Notification of the composition of the advisory committee will be sent to all applicants.

How to comment: DEQ accepts written comments by hand-delivery, email, fax and postal mail. All written comments must include the full name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ no later than the last day of the comment period.

How a decision is made: After comments have been considered, the board will decide whether to take action on a proposal. If the board decides to consider the regulation, there will be another public comment opportunity. After these comments have been considered, the board will make the final decision.

To review regulation documents: The agency background document (including purpose, statutory authority, need, substance of planned regulatory changes, alternatives and the family impact statement) is available on the Town Hall web site at www.townhall.virginia.gov and by contacting the DEQ representative named below. The public may review the documents at the following location:

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information:
Jaime Bauer; Office of VPDES Permit, 629 E. Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: 804-698-4416   Email: jaime.bauer@deq.virginia.gov   Fax: 804-698-4032