

September 2008
Intergovernmental Reviews
Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

LOCAL

FY09 – 08 DEQ reissuance of a VPDES permit for Fluvanna County High School Sewage Treatment Plant

The Department of Environmental Quality proposes to reissue the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for the Fluvanna County High School Sewage Treatment Plant in Palmyra. The plant is permitted to discharge up to 50,000 gallons per day into an unnamed tributary of Raccoon Creek in the Rivanna River watershed. Sludge will be transferred to the Moore's Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant for further treatment. The permit contains limits on organic matter, solids, chlorine, bacteria, ammonia, dissolved oxygen, pH, and nutrients. The permit has been modified from its last issuance to include more stringent limits for ammonia and residual chlorine, in order to protect the endangered and threatened species of mussels living downstream in the Rivanna River. The plant is already meeting the lower standard for chlorine, but has been given a compliance schedule for ammonia as it does not consistently meet the new limits (in fact, it has exceeded them significantly – by as much as 15x – 8 out of the last 12 months). The new permit contains two sets of monitoring requirements, one for the existing 25,000 gal/day discharge, and one for an expansion of the plant to 50,000 gal/day. Expansion of the plant will trigger monitoring requirements for nutrients, as the plant will be required to not exceed the current calculated nutrient discharge. A footnote was added to the new permit requiring 85% removal of influent suspended solids, perhaps because the plant has exceeded the discharge limit for four monthly samples since 2001 (twice in 2005 by large margins). The facility has also exceeded the limit for CBOD₅ (chemical biological oxygen demand, a measure of organic matter) twice since 2001, once in 2005 and once in 2007. Otherwise, it appears to have been in compliance.

FY09 – 09 DEQ reissuance of a VPDES permit for Schuyler Water Treatment Plant

The Department of Environmental Quality proposes to reissue the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for the Schuyler Water Treatment Plant in Nelson County. The plant is permitted to discharge up to 11,000 gallons per day into the Rockfish River. The permit contains limits on solids, chlorine, and pH. The permit and monitoring records have been requested but not yet received.

STATE

FY09 – 10 Department of Environmental Quality application to NOAA for the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

DEQ is applying to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for \$4,900,000 (matched by \$7,900,000 state funding, \$2,500,000 local funding, and \$12,467,000 from other sources) to fund the purchase of waterfront property in tidal areas of Virginia. This includes 1,100 acres on a peninsula bounded by the Potomac River and Accokeek and Potomac Creeks in Stafford County, to be added to the state's Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve; 2,428 acres (including 500 acres of old-growth swamp forest) bordering 5.5 miles of the Blackwater River in Isle of Wight County, to be held either by The Nature Conservancy or the state and opened for hiking and canoeing; and 50 acres on the tip of the Delmarva peninsula in Northampton County, to be added to the Trower Bayshore State Natural Area Preserve.