

**October 2008
Intergovernmental Reviews
Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission**

LOCAL

FY09 – 01 DEQ reissuance of a VPDES permit for Zion Crossroads Wastewater Treatment Plant

This permit reissuance was included in the July IGRs, but numerous requests for a public hearing have resulted in the scheduling of one and the reopening of the public comment period. The permit and monitoring records were requested for the July IGRs, but not received until several weeks later. Issues raised in the public comments, most of which came from residents of the downstream Green Springs National Historic District, as well as The Environmental Law Group (representing Historic Green Springs Inc.) and the National Park Service, include:

- Repeated violations of water quality standards and poor reporting practices: 32% of the discharge monitoring reports submitted since the plant came on line in July 2003 have indicated violations of standards, especially for nutrients but also for suspended solids, organic matter, and low dissolved oxygen. There were also 32% of the reports that had missing or incorrect information, and only two of the 60 reports were received on time. The facility has received 24 warning letters or notices of violation.
- Four-year compliance schedule for metals: The new permit adds limits for copper and zinc, which The Environmental Law Group alleges have been known to be at toxic levels in the plant's effluent for years, but gives the plant four years to meet the limits.
- Bank scour: The discharge creek, Camp Creek, is an intermittent stream that already is experiencing bank scour at the current discharge rate of 100,000 gallons per day. The permit allows for increases to the flow of up to 700,000 gallons per day.
- High algal growth: Unnatural algal growth has been documented in Camp Creek that was not present before the opening of the plant.
- Appropriateness and ramifications of the Louisa County Water Authority's request for increased nutrient waste load allocations for the plant and its decoupling from the VPDES permit process.
- The possibility that the creek will ultimately be subject to even higher flows and interbasin transfers, if the water planned to be pumped from the James for the Zion Crossroads area is treated by this plant (which is in the South Anna River/York watershed).
- Historic Green Springs would like to see jurisdiction for the permit transferred to the EPA, because of the impact of the discharge on the National Historic District (The Environmental Law Group claims that there is some precedence for this).
- Many commenters suggested that the discharge should be reused instead of being sent into the creek.

The public hearing will be at Louisa County Middle School in Mineral on October 22 from 7-9 PM. There will be an information briefing from 6:30-7 PM at the same date and location. The public comment period will be open until November 6.

FY09 – 11 DEQ review of an Environmental Impact Report for the Moser Center Vault Addition and Sieg Warehouse Parking Lot Upgrade (University of Virginia)

The University of Virginia proposes to add a second linear accelerator vault to the existing Moser Radiation Therapy Center, located on Ivy Road. The new vault will add approximately 3,000 ft² of space to the existing 6,776 ft² building. The need for the vault in order to increase patient capacity and provide redundancy/backup capability has been justified by a state Certificate of Public Need. In order to accommodate the increased need for parking for the Center as well as provide additional parking for the planned nearby Long Term Acute Care Hospital, the parking lot at the Sieg Warehouse (between the Moser Center and Northridge) is proposed to be enlarged to increase its size from 12,203 ft² to 41,800 ft² and its capacity from 54 to 92 spaces. A sidewalk will be added to improve pedestrian access from the parking lot to the buildings; lights will also be added, but as existing lights will be replaced by energy-efficient lights similar to the new ones, it is projected that energy use by the parking lot lights will remain the same. Two biofilters are planned to be constructed to handle the increased runoff from the additional 0.46 acres of impervious surface from the combined projects. Twenty-four thousand square feet of tree canopy will be removed, but plans are to replant so that the canopy when the project is complete equals roughly 61,000 ft².

FY09 – 12 Pre-application of Tash of Virginia to USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service for Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan Program

The USDA Rural Development office in Lexington, Virginia has received a pre-application from Tash of Virginia, LLC to receive a federal loan guarantee to finance the purchase of Browns Market in Esmont, Albemarle County. Tash is hoping to purchase the independent gas station and convenience store and continue to operate the business as it has for several years. The business will employ four full-time employees.

FY09 – 13 Industrial Development Authority of Louisa County application to Virginia Department of Aviation for Airport Capital Improvement Program Project Grant

The Industrial Development Authority of Louisa County is applying for \$6,400 in state funds (with a \$1,600 local match) for a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan for the Louisa County Airport. The majority of the funding, \$7,247, is for preliminary work and plan preparation by a consulting firm, with \$753 for administrative expenses.

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FY09 – 14 Department of Environmental Quality modification of a VPDES Permit for Lake Monticello Sewage Treatment Plant

This is a modification of the permit reissuance that was covered in IGR FY08-48 in June 2008. As a result of additional modeling requested by the permittee, ammonia limits have been removed from the permit, and nutrient concentration limits will not apply until the facility is expanded to 0.995 MGD. The permit still contains annual load limits for nitrogen and phosphorus, regardless of flow.