

## Public Notice – Environmental Permit

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality for the withdrawal of groundwater in Accomack County, Virginia.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** January 23, 2016 to February 22, 2016

**PERMIT NAME:** Groundwater Withdrawal Permit issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board

**APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER:** Mr. Donald L. Fitchett and Mr. David F. Mason; 28524 Phillips Drive, Melfa, VA 23410; GW0070400

**NAME AND LOCATION OF WATER WITHDRAWAL:** Home-Fitchett Farm; 28524 and 28344 Phillips Drive, Melfa, VA

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Mr. Fitchett and Mr. Mason have applied for reissuance of a permit for Home Farm expanded to include Fitchett Farm in Accomack County, Virginia. The permit would allow the applicants to withdraw an average of 583,000 gallons per day. The groundwater withdrawal will support crop irrigation and associated farm uses. The proposed withdrawal will utilize the Columbia aquifer with a bottom depth of 68 feet below the land surface at the withdrawal site. An aquifer is a body of rock or layer of sediment in the ground in which groundwater is stored and transported. DEQ has made a tentative decision to issue the permit.

**AFFECTED AREA:** The radial distance from the wells to where computer modeling predicts the aquifers may experience one foot of drawdown due to the withdrawal is illustrated on a map that can be viewed at: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterSupplyWaterQuantity/GroundwaterPermitting/PublicNotices.aspx>

**HOW TO COMMENT AND OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING:** DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. DEQ may hold a public hearing, including another comment period, if public response is significant and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the proposed permit. **CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Hank Ghittino; DEQ, 5636 Southern Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA, 23451; Phone: 757-518-2197; E-mail: [hank.ghittino@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:hank.ghittino@deq.virginia.gov); FAX: 757-518-2009. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment.