

Public Notice – Environmental Regulation

Notice of action: The State Water Control Board is considering the amendment of a regulation on groundwater withdrawals. A regulation is a general rule governing people's rights or conduct that is upheld by a state agency.

Regulation name: Groundwater Withdrawal Regulations (9VAC25-610)

Purpose of notice: The board is seeking comments through the Department of Environmental Quality on 1) the proposal 2) the costs and benefits of the proposal 3) effects of the proposal on farm and forest land preservation and 4) impacts on small businesses.

Public comment period: August 8, 2016 to September 7, 2016.

Public comment stage: Notice of Public Comment – Fast-Track Process.

Description of proposed regulation: Chapter 465 of the 2015 Virginia Acts of Assembly amended § 62.1-258 of the Code of Virginia, in part, to add a requirement that private wells constructed in a ground water management area be registered with the Board by the certified water well systems provider within 30 days of the completion of well construction.

The proposed amendments to 9VAC25 Chapter 610 include (i) a new section that requires registration of private wells as specified in law by submission of a form to be provided by the Department and provides the minimum information needed by the Department for registration purposes, and (ii) an amended section that adds definitions necessary to implement the new requirements.

Locality particularly affected: No localities will bear a disproportionate material impact due to the proposed regulation which would not be experienced by other localities.

How to comment: The DEQ accepts written comments by hand-delivery, e-mail, 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 on the last day of the comment period. All testimony, exhibits and documents received are part of the public record.

How a decision is made: The Board's authorization to promulgate the amendments for public comment constituted its adoption of the regulation at the end of the public comment period provided that (i) no objection to use of the fast-track process is received from 10 or more persons, or any member of the applicable standing committee of either house of the General Assembly or of the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules, and (ii) the Department does not find it necessary, based on public comments or for any other reason, to make any changes to the proposal.

To review regulation documents: The proposal and an analysis conducted by DEQ (including a statement of purpose, a statement of estimated impacts and benefits of the proposed regulation, an estimate of the impact of the proposed regulation upon small businesses, identification of and comparison with federal requirements, and a discussion of alternative approaches), are available on the Town Hall web site at www.townhall.virginia.gov, on the DEQ Groundwater Withdrawal Public Notice webpage at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/programs/water/watersupplywaterquantity/waterwithdrawalpermittingandcompilance/currentpublicnotices.aspx>, and by contacting the DEQ representative named below. The public may review the documents between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm of each business day until the close of the public comment period at the DEQ Main Street Office, 8th Floor, 629 E Main St, Richmond VA, 804-698-4103.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information:

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