

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the impact of surface waters for the improvement of approximately 1.5 miles of Route 659 (Belmont Ridge Road) approaching and including its intersection with Route 7 (Harry Byrd Highway) in Loudoun County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: For 30 days, starting from the day after the notice is in the newspaper: May 15, 2014 to June 16, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

PERMIT NAME: Virginia Water Protection Permit issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Loudoun County Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure, 1 Harrison Street, SE, 4th Floor, Mailstop #69, Leesburg, Virginia 20176; VWPP No. 13-1818

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Loudoun County Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure has applied for a new permit to conduct road improvements along approximately 1.5 miles of Route 659 (Belmont Ridge Road) approaching and at its intersection with Route 7 (Harry Byrd Highway). The permit will allow the applicant to impact approximately 1.052 acres of surface waters, consisting of 0.943 acre of permanent impacts and 0.109 acre of temporary impacts. Permanent impacts are to 0.397 acre of palustrine forested wetlands, 0.156 acre of palustrine emergent wetlands (PEM), 0.013 acre of open water, and 0.377 acre (2201 linear feet) of stream channel. Temporary impacts are to 0.012 acre of PEM, 0.007 acre of open water, and 0.09 acre (275 linear feet) of stream channel. The activity proposed in the permit will affect tributaries to Goose Creek which is located within the Potomac River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. To compensate for the affected area, the applicant would purchase 0.97 wetland credit and 2,004 stream credits from a DEQ approved mitigation bank and/or from a Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund Bank that is authorized to sell credits to the permitted impact site. DEQ's preliminary decision is to issue the permit.

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. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Margaret Quigley; Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, Virginia 22193; Phone: 703-583-3892; E-mail: Margaret.Quigley@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: (703) 583-3821. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed below.