

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on the draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the fill of non-vegetated intertidal surface waters and subaqueous bottom and the dredging of subaqueous bottom in Norfolk, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: For 30 days, starting from the day after the notice is in the newspaper.

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

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: Mr. Edward DuRant, 803 Front Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, VWPP No. 14-0813.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has applied for a VWP individual permit to nourish 22.9 acres of non-vegetated intertidal surface waters and subaqueous bottom along the 7.3 miles of shoreline from Little Creek Inlet to the terminus of Willoughby Spit. The Corps proposes to dredge the approximate 1.2 million cubic yards of beach quality sand required from the Thimble Shoals Auxiliary Channels which will impact 264 acres of subaqueous bottom. Hopper dredges and submerged, floating, and on-shore pipelines will be used to pump sand onto the beach. The material will be distributed along the shoreline approximately 135 feet channelward of mean high water using mechanized equipment. The Corps proposes to perform the dredging and beach nourishment on approximate 9-year cycles depending on need. The activity proposed in the permit will affect non-vegetated intertidal beach and subaqueous bottom in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. DEQ's preliminary decision is to approve 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. DEQ may hold a public hearing, including another comment period, if public response is significant and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Name: Curtis Davey, Project Manager; Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Boulevard, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23462; Phone: 757-518-2158; E-mail: curtis.davey@deq.virginia.gov; FAX: 757-518-2009. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment.