

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on the draft permit modification from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow alternative dredge methods and use of an overboard dredge disposal site in Burwell Bay and the James River in Isle of Wight County.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: March 24, 2015 to April 23, 2015

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

APPLICANT NAMES, ADDRESSES AND PERMIT NUMBER: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: Elizabeth G. Waring, 803 Front Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23518; VWPP No. 11-1478.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes to modify their existing permit for the Tylers Beach Federal Navigation Channel and Harbor of Refuge to allow the one-time use of a clamshell or special purpose hydraulic dredge to remove shoals in the channel that have formed since Hurricane Sandy. They propose overboard placement of this material into the previously-approved Tribell Shoal Overboard Placement Area since the 20-acre upland confined dredged material disposal site, currently authorized by the permit, has not yet been constructed. This one-time dredging event will remove approximately 25,000 cubic yards of material. The activity proposed in the permit will affect the James River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. DEQ's preliminary decision is approve the permit modification.

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: Peggy Emslie, Project Manager; Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Boulevard, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23462; Phone – 757-518-2109; E-mail Address – margaret.emslie@deq.virginia.gov; FAX – 757-518-2009. The public may review the draft permit modification and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment.