

## 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 widening and improvement along approximately 5.16 miles of existing Route 3 (Germanna Highway) in Culpeper County, Virginia.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** For 30 days, starting from the day after the notice is in the newspaper: December 31, 2014 to January 30, 2015 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:** Branch Highways, Inc.; 442 Rutherford Road, Roanoke, Virginia 24016; VWPP No. 14-0913

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Branch Highways, Inc. has applied for a new permit for the surface water impacts associated with the widening and improvement of approximately 5.16 miles of existing Route 3 (Germanna Highway) from the intersection of Lignum Road to its intersection with Clover Hill Road in Culpeper County, Virginia. The permit will allow the applicant to impact approximately 4.84 acres of surface waters, consisting of 4.12 acres permanent impacts, 0.31 acre permanent conversion impacts, and 0.41 acre temporary impacts. Permanent impacts are to 0.70 acre palustrine forested (PFO) wetlands, 0.52 acre palustrine shrub-shrub (PSS) wetlands, 2.36 acres palustrine emergent (PEM) wetlands, 0.02 acre open water impacts, and 0.52 acre (3,190 linear feet) of stream channel impacts. Conversion impacts are to 0.22 acre PFO to PEM wetlands, and 0.09 acre PSS to PEM wetlands. Temporary impacts are to 0.37 acre PEM wetlands, and 0.04 acre (218 linear feet) of stream channel. The activity proposed in the permit will affect tributaries to Mountain Run and Potato Run in the Rappahannock 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 4.75 wetland credits and 2,822 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 requester, 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](mailto: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.