

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 modification of an existing intake and withdrawal from Smith Mountain Lake, Bedford County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: For 30 days, starting from the day after the notice is in the newspaper: July 18, 2013 to August 19, 2013 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: Bedford Regional Water Authority, 17123 Falling Creek Road, Bedford, VA 24523; VWPP No. 96-0707.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Bedford Regional Water Authority (BRWA) proposes to expand the existing intake structure at the High Point water intake site on Smith Mountain Lake in Bedford County from its currently permitted, maximum daily rate of 2.99 million gallons to a maximum daily rate of 12 million gallons. The intake is located on Lakewood Drive, south of High Point Road and west of State Route 654 in Bedford County. The permit will allow the applicant to impact 0.69 acres of open water associated with the expansion of the surface water intake structure. Compensatory mitigation is not recommended because there will be no loss of surface water area and a minimal amount of open water impacts. The draft permit proposes a maximum allowable daily withdrawal of 12 million gallons per day (mgd) and a maximum allowable annual withdrawal of 2306 million gallons. The permit contains limits on the withdrawal rates that depend upon completion of waterline extensions to service areas within Bedford County, and additional limits that depend upon either completion of a waterline extension in Franklin County or an amendment to an existing water purchase agreement between the applicant and the Western Virginia Water Authority. The activity proposed in the permit will affect Smith Mountain Lake in the Roanoke River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. 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: Brian McGurk; Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Supply, P. O. Box 1105, Richmond VA 23218; Phone: (804)-698-4180; E-mail: Brian.McGurk@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: (804) 698-4132. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed.