

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR REVISED DRAFT WATER QUALITY RESTORATION STUDY (TMDL) FOR THE JAMES RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES IMPAIRED FOR BACTERIA IN HENRICO, PRINCE GEORGE, CHARLES CITY, AND SURRY COUNTIES

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: August 25, 2014 - September 25, 2014

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is announcing a revised draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study to restore water quality for waterbodies mentioned above. DEQ invites the public to share their knowledge of the watershed and learn about pollution affecting community waters. The TMDL document includes an executive summary of information on watershed land use, water quality monitoring data, suspected sources of bacteria, and the reduction of source bacteria required to meet water quality standards.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies have been working to identify sources of bacteria in the James River and its tributaries:

Stream	County/City	Length (mi.)	Impairment
Crewes Channel	Henrico	3.19	Bacteria (Primary Contact / Swimming Use)
Western Run	Henrico	1.85	
West Run	Charles City	1.86	
Wards Creek	Prince George	8.47	
Upper Chippokes Creek	Prince George, Surry	5.61	
James River (mainstem)	Prince George, Charles City, Surry	3.76 (sq. miles)	

The above streams failed to meet the *Primary Contact (Recreational or Swimming)* designated use, due to high concentrations of bacteria. The study reports on the sources of bacteria and recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacterial levels need to be reduced to the TMDL amount. The draft TMDL report will be available at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/DraftTMDLReports.aspx> on August 25, 2014 for review. A public meeting was held for the original draft TMDL document in August 2013. Subsequent revisions were made to the reduction scenarios which will allow for greater flexibility during implementation of best management practices.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the final TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Control Board for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include name, address and telephone number and be received by DEQ during the comment period, which will begin on August 25th and end on September 25, 2014.

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