

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT:  
TMDL MODIFICATION**

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seeks written and oral comments from interested persons on the modification of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Hardware River and North Fork Hardware River watersheds in Albemarle and Fluvanna Counties. The North Fork Hardware River and the Hardware River were first listed as impaired on the Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report due to violations of the State's water quality standard for bacteria in 2006. The creeks have remained on the 303(d) list for these impairments since then.

The impaired segment of the North Fork Hardware River extends 10.42 miles from the headwaters downstream to its confluence with the South Fork Hardware River. The impaired segment of Hardware River extends 23.03 miles from its confluence with the North Fork downstream to its confluence with the James River.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report. DEQ completed bacteria TMDLs for the Hardware River and the North Fork in July 2007. The TMDLs were approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency on April 10, 2008. The TMDL report is available on the DEQ website at:  
<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/ApprovedTMDLReports.aspx>

In addition, Section 62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia requires expeditious implementation of total maximum daily loads when appropriate. Upon initiating development of a TMDL implementation plan (IP) for the Hardware River in March 2015, several errors were identified in watershed modeling performed in support of TMDL development. As a result, the Hardware River and North Fork Hardware River TMDLs have been modified in order to correct these errors. A public meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.** at the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District Office (706 Forest St # G Charlottesville, VA). The purpose of this meeting is to present the modified TMDLs, and to review the errors found in the original TMDLs and associated corrections made.

A 30-day public comment period for the meeting and modified TMDLs will begin on September 3, 2015, and end on October 2, 2015. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Nesha McRae, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 3000, Harrisonburg, VA, 22801, telephone (540) 574-7850 or e-mailed to [nesha.mcrae@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:nesha.mcrae@deq.virginia.gov).