

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seeks written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of an Implementation Plan (IP) for bacteria and sediment Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) on the main stem Upper Roanoke River and tributaries. The following is the name of the “impaired” stream, the length of the impaired segment and the reason for the impairment: Ore Branch, all, bacteria; Roanoke River, 29.56 miles, bacteria; Back Creek, 9.88 miles, bacteria; Mason Creek, 7.56 miles, bacteria; Mudlick Creek, 7.28 miles, bacteria; Murray Run, 3.22 miles, bacteria; Peters Creek, 7.14 miles, bacteria; Tinker Creek, 19.34 miles, bacteria; Carvin Creek, 5.36 miles, bacteria; Glade Creek, 12.59 miles, bacteria; Laymantown Creek, 2.07 miles, bacteria; Lick Run, 9.37 miles, bacteria; Roanoke River, 20.04 miles, sediment. These portions of the Roanoke River watershed are located in Bedford, Botetourt, Floyd, Franklin, Craig, Montgomery, and Roanoke counties, Roanoke City and Salem.

In addition, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seeks written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of a TMDL Implementation Plan for the North Fork and South Fork Roanoke Rivers and tributaries. These streams were 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. The following is the name of the “impaired” stream, the length of the impaired segment and the reason for the impairment: North Fork Roanoke River, 16.09 miles, bacteria; Wilson Creek and Unnamed Tributary to Wilson Creek, 6.99 miles, bacteria; Bradshaw Creek, 10.36, bacteria; South Fork Roanoke River, 17.31 miles, bacteria; and Goose Creek, 2.30 miles, bacteria. These stream segments are located in Montgomery County, Roanoke County and/or Floyd County.

The TMDL studies for these stream impairments were completed in February 2006, February 2006 and March 2004, and can be found, respectively, in the ***Bacteria TMDLs for Wilson Creek, Ore Branch and Roanoke River Watersheds, Virginia*** report (available at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/roankrvr/uroanec.pdf>), the ***Benthic TMDL Development for the Roanoke River, Virginia*** report (available at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/roankrvr/uroanbc.pdf>), and the ***Fecal Coliform Total Maximum Daily Load Development for Glade Creek, Tinker Creek, Carvin Creek, Laymantown Creek and Lick Run*** report (available at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/roankrvr/tinkerfc.pdf>).

Section 62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia requires the development of an IP for approved TMDLs. The IP should provide measurable goals and the date of expected achievement of water quality objectives. The IP should also include the corrective actions needed and their associated costs, benefits, and environmental impacts.

A public meeting will be held to discuss the draft implementation plan for the bacteria and sediment TMDLs on the main stem Upper Roanoke River and tributaries which has been under development since June 2013. The public meeting will also kick off the development of an implementation plan focused on the North Fork Roanoke River, South Fork Roanoke River and tributaries. At this meeting, the process by which an implementation plan was developed to restore water quality in the Upper Roanoke River watershed will be discussed, and citizens will learn how they can be part of the water quality improvement process. In addition, interested persons will have the opportunity to be involved in working groups to develop an implementation plan for the North Fork and South Fork Roanoke Rivers and tributaries.

The Public Meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on April 30, 2015 at the Meadowbrook Center, 267 Alleghany Spring Road, Shawsville, VA 24162.

DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. The 30-day public comment period on the information presented at the meeting will end on June 1, 2015. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Mary Dail with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Written comments and inquiries should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Mary Dail, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, 3019 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, VA 24019; phone: 540.562.6715; email: mary.dail@deq.virginia.gov; fax: 540.562.6725.