

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT FOR A WATER QUALITY STUDY (TMDL) FOR NEW RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES**

COMMUNITY INFORMATIONAL MEETING: A community meeting will be held Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 6.00 pm in the Muse Hall Banquet Room at Radford University. Parking is available in Lot F off of Tyler Avenue. The address is: 801 E. Main Street, Radford, VA 24141. This meeting will be open to the public and all are welcome. For more information, please contact Mary Dail at [Mary.Dail@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Mary.Dail@deq.virginia.gov) or 540.562.6715 or Martha Chapman at [Martha.Chapman@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Martha.Chapman@deq.virginia.gov) or 276.676.4845.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and its contractors, Virginia Tech’s Biological Systems Engineering Department, will discuss polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) data for the development of a water quality study known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the New River and its tributaries. This is an opportunity for local residents to learn about the condition of these streams, share information about the area, and become involved in the process of local water quality improvement. A public comment period will follow the meetings (4/5/2016 – 5/4/2016).

MEETING DESCRIPTION: A public information meeting will be held to introduce the local community the water quality improvement process in Virginia, known as the TMDL Process, provide information on PCB monitoring efforts and sources, invite participation and solicit input, review the next steps and accept volunteers to be part of a Technical Advisory Committee. 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.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: In Virginia, portions of the mainstem New River, selected tributaries to the New River, and Claytor Lake are listed as impaired for PCBs based on a Virginia Department of Health (VDH) fish consumption advisory and violations of Virginia’s Water Quality Standards. The PCB impairment begins at the I-77 bridge across the New River and extends downstream of the VA/WV state line, and includes Peak Creek, Reed Creek, Stony Creek, Walker Creek and Claytor Lake. This water quality study will report on the sources of PCBs and recommends reductions to meet Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the 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. Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of PCBs. Reductions and a TMDL for the cause of the impairment will be developed.

<b>Stream</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Impairment</b>
New River	Montgomery	PCBs in Fish Tissue
New River, Stony Creek	Giles	PCBs in Fish Tissue
Walker Creek	Giles	PCBs in Water Column
New River, Peak Creek	Pulaski	PCBs in Fish Tissue
New River, Reed Creek	Wythe	PCBs in Fish Tissue

HOW TO COMMENT AND PARTICIPATE: The meetings of the TMDL process are open to the public and all interested parties are welcome. Written comments will accepted through May 4th, 2016 and should

include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments. For more information or to submit written comments, please contact: Mary Dail, DEQ Blue Ridge Regional Office, 3019 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, VA 24019; Telephone: (540) 562-6715, Fax: (540) 562-6725, E-mail: [mary.dail@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:mary.dail@deq.virginia.gov); or Martha Chapman, DEQ Southwest Regional Office, 355-A Deadmore Street, Abingdon, VA 24210; Telephone: (276) 676-4800, Fax: (276) 676-4899, Email: [martha.chapman@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:martha.chapman@deq.virginia.gov).