

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

PUBLIC MEETINGS: The Blue Ridge Region Roanoke Office of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will host working group meetings for the North Fork and South Fork Roanoke Rivers and Tributaries Watershed Clean-up Plan on Wednesday, March 16, 2016. The Government Working Group and Steering Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Blacksburg Branch of the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library, 200 Miller Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announces the second Government Working Group meeting combined with the first Steering Committee meeting to discuss potential water quality improvement projects and funding sources to be included in the Roanoke River Watershed Clean-up Plan Part II: North Fork and South Fork Roanoke Rivers and Tributaries Watershed Clean-up Plan. The Steering Committee and Government Working Group will go over the working group reports, discuss potential partnerships, funding sources and proposed water quality improvement projects.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies are working to develop a clean-up plan with strategies for reducing levels of bacteria and sediment entering streams. The clean-up plan is designed to meet the bacteria and sediment reduction goals established by the following Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies: *Bacteria TMDLs for Wilson Creek, Ore Branch and Roanoke River Watersheds, Virginia* (available at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/roankrvr/uroanec.pdf>) and the *Benthic TMDL Development for the Roanoke River, Virginia* (available at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/roankrvr/uroanbc.pdf>). The TMDL studies were completed in February 2006. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, contamination levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

The following is a list of water quality impairments that will be addressed by the Clean-up Plan (or 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.

CONTACT: For additional information or to submit comments, contact Mary Dail in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Blue Ridge Regional Office by mail: 3019 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, Virginia, 24019, by phone: 540.562.6715, or by email: mary.dail@deq.virginia.gov. Additional information, including materials from past meetings and working group descriptions, is also available on the DEQ web site at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/TMDLImplementationProgress.aspx>