

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announces the release of an updated draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report. Final public meeting was held on February 20, 2013 and since that meeting, changes were made to the draft TMDL report. The TMDL report was developed to document a study to restore water quality in the Little Otter River watershed and the Buffalo Creek watershed. The draft TMDL report is posted on the DEQ web site: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/DraftTMDLReports.aspx>.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of biological impairment (general standard) in the Little Otter watershed and the Buffalo Creek watershed. The general standard indicates the water quality does not support a natural aquatic invertebrate community.

The following is the "impaired" stream, the length of the impaired segment, location and the reason for the impairment: Johns Creek, 2.13 miles, Bedford City and Bedford County, general standard (aquatic invertebrate community); Little Otter River, 21.62 miles, Bedford City and Bedford County, general standard (aquatic invertebrate community); Wells Creek, 3.78 miles, Bedford County, general standard (aquatic invertebrate community); Buffalo Creek, 8.09 miles, Bedford and Campbell Counties, general standard (aquatic invertebrate community).

DEQ, in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and other state and local agencies developed a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study 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, contamination levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by February 13, 2014. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

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 is also available on the DEQ web site at

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment.aspx>