

Virginia Administrative Code

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CHAPTER 210

VIRGINIA WATER PROTECTION PERMIT PROGRAM REGULATION

Part I

VWP Permit Program Definitions, Exclusions, Prohibitions and Requirements

9VAC25-210-10. Definitions.

Unless a different meaning is required by the context, the following terms as used in this chapter shall have the following meanings:

"Act" or "Clean Water Act" means 33 USC § 1251 et seq. as amended 1987.

"Adjacent" means bordering, contiguous or neighboring; wetlands separated from other surface water by man-made dikes or barriers, natural river berms, sand dunes and the like are adjacent wetlands.

"Affected stream reach" means the portion of a surface water body beginning at the location of a withdrawal and ending at a point where effects of the withdrawal are not reasonably expected to adversely affect beneficial uses.

"Agricultural surface water withdrawal" means a withdrawal of surface water in Virginia or from the Potomac River for the purpose of agricultural, silvicultural, horticultural, or aquacultural operations. Agricultural surface water withdrawals include withdrawals for turf farm operations, but do not include withdrawals for landscaping activities, or turf installment and maintenance associated with landscaping activities.

"Applicant" means a person applying for a VWP individual permit or VWP general permit authorization.

"Aquatic environment" means surface waters and the habitat they provide, including both plant and animal communities.

"Avoidance" means not taking or modifying a proposed action or parts of an action so that there is no adverse impact to the aquatic environment.

"Beneficial use" means both instream and offstream uses. Instream beneficial uses include, but are not limited to: the protection of fish and wildlife habitat; maintenance of waste assimilation; recreation; navigation; and cultural and aesthetic values. Offstream beneficial uses include, but are not limited to: domestic (including public water supply); agricultural; electric power generation; and commercial and industrial uses.

"Best management practices (BMPs)" means a schedule of activities, prohibition of practices, maintenance procedures and other management practices that prevent or reduce the pollution of surface waters.

"Board" means the State Water Control Board.

"Channelization of streams" means alteration of a stream by widening, deepening, straightening, cleaning, or paving.

"Compensation" or "compensatory mitigation" means actions taken that provide some form of substitute aquatic resource for the impacted aquatic resource.

"Consumptive water use" means the withdrawal of surface waters, without recycle of said waters to their source of origin.

"Creation" means the establishment of a wetland or other aquatic resource where one did not formerly exist.

"Cross-sectional sketch" means a scaled graph or plot that represents the plane made by cutting across an object at right angles to its length. For purposes of this regulation, objects may include, but are not limited to, a surface water body or a portion of it, a man-made channel, an above-ground structure, a below-ground structure, a geographical feature, or the ground surface itself.

"Director" means the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or an authorized representative.

"Discharge" means, when used without qualification, a discharge of a pollutant, or any addition of any pollutant or combination of pollutants, to state waters or waters of the contiguous zone or ocean other than a discharge from a vessel or other floating craft when being used as a means of transportation.

"Draft VWP permit" means a document indicating the board's tentative decision relative to a VWP permit action.

"Draining" means human-induced activities such as ditching, excavation, installation of tile drains, hydrologic modification by surface water runoff diversion, pumping water from wells, or similar activities such that the activities have the effect of artificially dewatering the wetland or altering its hydroperiod.

"Dredged material" means material that is excavated or dredged from surface waters.

"Dredging" means a form of excavation in which material is removed or relocated from beneath surface waters.

"Drought" means that a Severe Intensity Drought (D2) has been declared by the weekly "U.S. Drought Monitor" for the location in which the withdrawal is located.

"Ecologically preferable" means capable of providing a higher likelihood of replacing existing wetland or stream functions and values, water quality and fish and wildlife resources than alternative proposals.

"Emergency Virginia Water Protection Permit" means a Virginia Water Protection Permit issued pursuant to § 62.1-44.15:22 C of the Code of Virginia authorizing a new or increased surface water withdrawal to address insufficient public drinking water supplies that are caused by a drought and may result in a substantial threat to human health or public safety.

"Enhancement" means activities conducted in existing wetlands or other portions of the aquatic environment that increase one or more aquatic functions or values.

"Excavate" or "excavation" means ditching, dredging, or mechanized removal of earth, soil or rock.

"Fill" means replacing portions of surface water with upland, or changing the bottom elevation of a surface water for any purpose, by placement of any pollutant or material including but not limited to rock, sand, earth, and man-made materials and debris.

"Fill material" means any pollutant which replaces portions of surface water with dry land or which changes the bottom elevation of a surface water for any purpose.

"General permit" means a permit authorizing a specified category of activities.

"Geographic area of a delineated wetland" means the area contained within and up to a wetland boundary determined by delineation methods consistent with this chapter.

"Impacts" means results caused by human-induced activities conducted in surface waters, as specified in § 62.1-44.15:20 A of the Code of Virginia.

"Impairment" means the damage, loss or degradation of the functions and values of state waters.

"In-lieu fee fund" means a monetary fund operated by a nonprofit organization or governmental agency which receives financial contributions from persons impacting wetlands or streams pursuant to an authorized permitted activity and which expends the moneys received to provide consolidated compensatory mitigation for permitted wetland or stream impacts.

"Intake structure" means any portion of a withdrawal system used to withdraw surface water that is located within the surface water, such as, but not limited to, a pipe, culvert, hose, tube, or screen.

"Isolated wetlands of minimal ecological value" means those wetlands that: (i) do not have a surface water connection to other state waters; (ii) are less than one-tenth of an acre (0.10 acre or 4,356 square feet) in size; (iii) are not located in a Federal Emergency Management Agency designated 100-year floodplain; (iv) are not identified by the Virginia Natural Heritage Program as a rare or state significant natural community; (v) are not forested; and (vi) do not contain listed federal or state threatened or endangered species.

"Joint Permit Application (JPA)" means an application form that is used to apply for permits from the Norfolk District Army Corps of Engineers, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and local wetland boards for work in waters of the United States and in surface waters of Virginia.

"Law" means the State Water Control Law of Virginia.

"Major surface water withdrawal" means a surface water withdrawal of 90 million gallons per month (mgm) or greater.

"Minimization" means lessening impacts by reducing the degree or magnitude of the proposed action and its implementation.

"Minor surface water withdrawal" means a surface water withdrawal of less than 90 million gallons per month (mgm).

"Mitigation" means sequentially avoiding and minimizing impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and then compensating for remaining unavoidable impacts of a proposed action.

"Mitigation bank" means a site providing off-site, consolidated compensatory mitigation that is developed and approved in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws or regulations for the establishment, use and operation of mitigation banks, and is operating under a signed banking agreement.

"Mitigation banking" means compensating for unavoidable wetland or stream losses in advance of development actions through the sale, purchase or use of credits from a mitigation bank.

"Multi-project mitigation site" means an area of wetland restoration, creation, enhancement and, in appropriate circumstances, preservation of wetlands or streams or upland buffers adjacent to wetlands or other state waters, that is or has been utilized to meet compensation requirements for more than one project but that is not a mitigation bank.

"Nationwide permit" means a general permit issued by the USACE under 40 CFR Part 241 and, except where suspended by individual USACE Corps Districts, applicable nationwide.

"Normal agricultural activities" means those activities defined as an agricultural operation in § 3.2-300 of the Code of Virginia and any activity that is conducted as part of or in furtherance of such agricultural operation, but shall not include any activity for which a permit would have been required as of January 1, 1997, under 33 USC § 1344 or any regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

"Normal residential gardening, lawn and landscape maintenance" means ongoing noncommercial residential activities conducted by or on behalf of an individual occupant, including mowing, planting, fertilizing, mulching, tilling, vegetation removal by hand or by hand tools, placement of decorative stone, fencing and play equipment. Other appurtenant noncommercial activities, provided that they do not result in the conversion of a wetland to upland or to a different wetland type, may also be included.

"Normal silvicultural activities" means any silvicultural activity as defined in § 10.1-1181.1 of the Code of Virginia, and any activity that is conducted as part of or in furtherance of such silvicultural activity, but shall not include any activity for which a permit would have been required as of January 1, 1997, under 33 USC § 1344 or any regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

"Out-of-kind mitigation" means compensatory mitigation that does not replace the same type of wetland or surface water as was impacted, but does replace lost wetland or surface water functions, values, or beneficial uses.

"Permanent flooding or impounding" means a permanent increase in the duration or depth of standing water on a land surface, such as from a dam. Permanent increases in duration or depth of standing water that result from extended-detention basins and enhanced extended-detention basins, when designed, constructed, and maintained to function in accordance with Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) standards for such facilities (Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, First Edition, 1999, Volume 1, Chapter 3), or when designed in accordance with local standards that, at a minimum, meet the DCR standards, are not considered to be permanent flooding and impounding.

"Permanent impacts" are those impacts to surface waters, including wetlands that cause a permanent alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties of the surface waters or of the functions and values of a wetland.

"Permittee" means the person who holds a VWP individual or general permit.

"Person" means one or more individuals, a corporation, a partnership, an association, a governmental body, a municipal corporation, or any other legal entity.

"Plan view sketch" means a scaled graph or plot that represents the view of an object as projected onto orthogonal planes. For purposes of this regulation, objects may include, but are not limited to, structures, contours, or boundaries.

"Pollutant" means any substance, radioactive material, or heat which causes or contributes to, or may cause or contribute to pollution.

"Pollution" means such alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties of any state waters as will or is likely to create a nuisance or render such waters: (i) harmful or

detrimental or injurious to the public health, safety or welfare, or to the health of animals, fish or aquatic life; (ii) unsuitable with reasonable treatment for use as present or possible future sources of public water supply; or (iii) unsuitable for recreational, commercial, industrial, agricultural, or other reasonable uses; provided that (a) an alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological property of state waters, or a discharge or deposit of sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes to state waters by any owner which by itself is not sufficient to cause pollution, but which, in combination with such alteration of or discharge or deposit to state waters by other owners is sufficient to cause pollution; (b) the discharge of untreated sewage by any owner into state waters; and (c) contributing to the contravention of standards of water quality duly established by the board, are "pollution" for the terms and purposes of this chapter.

"Potomac River Low Flow Allocation Agreement" means the agreement among the United States of America, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the District of Columbia, the Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission, and the Fairfax County Water Authority dated January 11, 1978, consented to by Congress in § 181 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1976, Public Law 94-587, as modified on April 22, 1986.

"Practicable" means available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology and logistics in light of overall project purposes.

"Preservation" means the protection of resources in perpetuity through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms.

"Profile sketch" means a scaled graph or plot that represents the side view of an object. For purposes of this regulation, objects may include, but are not limited to, a surface water body or a portion of it, a man-made channel, an above-ground structure, a below-ground structure, a geographical feature, or the ground surface itself.

"Public hearing" means a fact finding proceeding held to afford interested persons an opportunity to submit factual data, views and comments to the board pursuant to the board's Procedural Rule No. 1 - Public and Formal Hearing Procedures (9VAC25-230).

"Public surface water supply withdrawal" means a withdrawal of surface water in Virginia or from the Potomac River for the production of drinking water, distributed to the general public for the purpose of, but not limited to, domestic use.

"Public water supply emergency" means a substantial threat to public health or safety due to insufficient public drinking water supplies caused by drought.

"Regional permit" means a general permit issued by the USACE under 40 CFR Part 241 and applicable within a specified geographic area.

"Restoration" means the reestablishment of a wetland or other aquatic resource in an area where it previously existed. Wetland restoration means the reestablishment of wetland hydrology and vegetation in an area where a wetland previously existed. Stream restoration means the process of converting an unstable, altered or degraded stream corridor, including adjacent areas and floodplains, to its natural conditions.

"Riprap" means a layer of nonerodible material such as stone or chunks of concrete.

"Schedule of compliance" means a schedule of remedial measures including a sequence of enforceable actions or operations leading to compliance with the Act, the law, and the board regulations, standards and policies.

"Section 401" means § 401 of the Clean Water Act, or 33 USC § 1341, as amended in 1987.

"Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations on the Potomac (CO-OP)" means a section of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin designated by the Water Supply Coordination Agreement as responsible for coordination of water resources during times of low flow in the Potomac River.

"Significant alteration or degradation of existing wetland acreage or function" means human-induced activities that cause either a diminution of the areal extent of the existing wetland or cause a change in wetland community type resulting in the loss or more than minimal degradation of its existing ecological functions.

"State waters" means all water, on the surface and under the ground, wholly or partially within or bordering the Commonwealth or within its jurisdiction, including wetlands.

"Surface water" means all state waters that are not ground water as defined in § 62.1-255 of the Code of Virginia.

"Surface water supply project" means a project that withdraws or diverts water from a surface water body for consumptive or nonconsumptive purposes thereby altering the

hydrologic regime of the surface water body. Projects that do not alter the hydrologic regime or that alter the hydrologic regime but whose sole purpose is flood control or storm water management are not included in this definition.

"Surface water withdrawal" means a removal or diversion of surface water from its natural water course in Virginia or from the Potomac River.

"Temporary impacts" means those impacts to surface waters, including wetlands, that do not cause a permanent alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties of the surface water or of the functions and values of a wetland. Temporary impacts include activities in which the ground is restored to its preconstruction contours and elevations, such that previous functions and values are restored.

"Toxic pollutant" means any agent or material including, but not limited to, those listed under § 307(a) of the Act (33 USC § 1317(a)), which after discharge will, on the basis of available information, cause toxicity. Toxicity means the inherent potential or capacity of a material to cause adverse effects in a living organism, including acute or chronic effects to aquatic life, detrimental effects on human health or other adverse environmental effects.

"Undesirable plant species" means any species that invades, naturally colonizes, or otherwise dominates a compensatory mitigation site or mitigation bank and may cause or contribute to the failure of the vegetative success criteria for a particular compensatory mitigation site or mitigation bank.

"USACE" means the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

"VMRC" means the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

"VWP general permit" means a regulation that constitutes a VWP permit for a category of activities.

"VWP permit" means an individual or general permit issued by the board under § 62.1-44.15:20 of the Code of Virginia that authorizes activities otherwise unlawful under § 62.1-44.5 of the Code of Virginia or otherwise serves as the Commonwealth of Virginia's § 401 certification.

"Water quality standards" means water quality standards adopted by the board and approved by the administrator of the EPA under § 303 of the Act as defined at 9VAC25-260.

"Water Supply Coordination Agreement" means the agreement among the United States of America, the Fairfax County Water Authority, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, the District of Columbia, and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, dated July 22, 1982, which establishes agreement among the suppliers to operate their respective water supply systems in a coordinated manner and which outlines operating rules and procedures for reducing impacts of severe droughts in the Potomac River Basin.

"Wetlands" means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

"Withdrawal system" means any device or combination of devices used to withdraw surface water, such as, but not limited to, a machine, pump, pipe, culvert, hose, tube, screen, or fabricated concrete or metal structure.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia; § 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 1.1, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 16, Issue 25, eff. September 27, 2000; Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007; Volume 24, Issue 9, eff. February 6, 2008; Volume 25, Issue 5, eff. December 10, 2008.

9VAC25-210-20 to 9VAC25-210-40. [Repealed]

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 §§ 1.2 to 1.4, eff. May 20, 1992; repealed, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001.

9VAC25-210-45. Wetland delineation.

Each delineation shall be conducted in accordance with the USACE "Wetland Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-87-1, January 1987, Final Report" (Federal Manual). The Federal Manual shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with USACE guidance and the requirements of this regulation, and any delineation guidance adopted by

the board as necessary to ensure consistency with the USACE implementation of delineation practices.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

9VAC25-210-50. Prohibitions and requirements for VWP permits.

A. Except in compliance with a VWP permit, unless the activity is otherwise exempted or excluded, no person shall dredge, fill or discharge any pollutant into, or adjacent to surface waters, withdraw surface water, otherwise alter the physical, chemical or biological properties of surface waters and make them detrimental to the public health, or to animal or aquatic life, or to the uses of such waters for domestic or industrial consumption, or for recreation, or for other uses; excavate in wetlands or on or after October 1, 2001, conduct the following activities in a wetland:

1. New activities to cause draining that significantly alters or degrades existing wetland acreage or functions;
2. Filling or dumping;
3. Permanent flooding or impounding; or
4. New activities that cause significant alteration or degradation of existing wetland acreage or functions.

B. No VWP permit shall be issued for the following:

1. Where the proposed activity or the terms or conditions of the VWP permit do not comply with state law or regulations including but not limited to § 10.1-1408.5 of the Code of Virginia;
2. For the discharge of any radiological, chemical or biological warfare agent or high level radioactive material into surface waters.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia; § 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 1.5, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 16, Issue 25, eff. September 27, 2000; Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007; Volume 25, Issue 5, eff. December 10, 2008.

9VAC25-210-60. Exclusions.

A. The following activities do not require a VWP permit but may require other permits under state and federal law:

1. Discharges of dredged or fill material into state waters, excepting wetlands, which are addressed under a USACE Regional, General or Nationwide Permit, and for which no § 401 Water Quality Certificate is required.
2. Discharges of dredged or fill material into wetlands when addressed under a USACE Regional, General, or Nationwide Permit and that meet the provisions of subdivision 10 a of this subsection.
3. Any discharge, other than an activity in a surface water governed by § 62.1-44.15:20 of the Code of Virginia, permitted by a Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit in accordance with 9VAC25-31.
4. Any activity, other than an activity in a surface water governed by § 62.1-44.15:20 of the Code of Virginia, permitted by a Virginia Pollution Abatement (VPA) permit in accordance with 9VAC25-32.
5. Septic tanks, when authorized by a state Department of Health permit.
6. Any activity permitted under Chapter 13 (§ 28.2-1300 et seq.) of Title 28.2 of the Code of Virginia, unless state certification is required by § 401 of the Clean Water Act. State certification is waived if the activity meets the provisions of subdivision 10 a of this subsection. The activity does not require a VWP permit pursuant to § 62.1-44.15:21 H of the Code of Virginia.
7. Normal residential gardening, lawn and landscape maintenance in a wetland.
8. Normal agriculture and silviculture activities in a wetland such as plowing, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage and harvesting for the production of food, fiber and forest products, or upland soil and water conservation practices.

a. To fall under this exclusion, the activities specified in subdivision 8 of this section must be part of an established (i.e., ongoing) agriculture or silviculture operation, and must be in accordance with applicable best management practices set forth in either Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality in Virginia Technical Guide (Fourth Edition, July 2002) or Virginia Agricultural BMP Manual (2000), which facilitate compliance with the § 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR Part 230). Activities on areas lying fallow as part of a conventional rotational cycle are part of an established operation.

b. Activities which bring a new area into agricultural or silvicultural use are not part of an established operation. An operation ceases to be established when the area in which it was conducted has been converted to another use or has lain idle so long that modifications to the hydrological regime are necessary to resume operation. If the activity takes place outside surface waters, it does not need a VWP permit, whether or not it is part of an established agriculture or silviculture operation.

c. For the purposes of subdivision 8 of this section, cultivating, harvesting, minor drainage, plowing, and seeding are defined as follows:

(1) "Cultivating" means physical methods of soil treatment employed within established agriculture and silviculture lands on farm or forest crops to aid and improve their growth, quality, or yield.

(2) "Harvesting" means physical measures employed directly upon farm, forest, or crops within established agricultural and silviculture lands to bring about their removal from farm or forest land, but does not include the construction of farm or forest roads.

(3) "Minor drainage" means:

(a) The discharge of dredged or fill material incidental to connecting upland drainage facilities to surface waters, adequate to effect the removal of excess soil moisture from upland croplands. Construction and maintenance of upland (dryland) facilities, such as ditching and tiling, incidental to the planting, cultivating, protecting, or harvesting of crops;

(b) The discharge of dredged or fill material for the purpose of installing ditching or other water control facilities incidental to planting, cultivating, protecting, or harvesting of rice, or other wetland crop species, where these activities and the discharge occur in surface waters which are in established use for such agricultural and silviculture wetland crop production;

(c) The discharge of dredged or fill material for the purpose of manipulating the water levels of, or regulating the flow or distribution of water within, existing impoundments which have been constructed in accordance with applicable requirements of the Act, and which are in established use for the production of rice, or other wetland crop species;

(d) The discharge of dredged or fill material incidental to the emergency removal of sandbars, gravel bars, or other similar blockages which are formed during flood flows or other events, where such blockages close or constrict previously existing drainageways and, if not promptly removed, would result in damage to or loss of existing crops or would impair or prevent the plowing, seeding, harvesting or cultivating of crops on land in established use for crop production. Such removal does not include enlarging or extending the dimensions of, or changing the bottom elevations of, the affected drainageway as it existed prior to the formation of the blockage. Removal must be accomplished within one year after such blockages are discovered in order to be eligible for exclusion; and

(e) Minor drainage in surface waters is limited to drainage within areas that are part of an established agriculture or silviculture operation. It does not include drainage associated with the immediate or gradual conversion of a wetland to a nonwetland (for example, wetland species to upland species not typically adapted to life in saturated soil conditions), or conversion from one wetland use to another (for example, silviculture to agriculture). In addition, minor drainage does not include the construction of any canal, ditch, dike or other waterway or structure which drains or otherwise significantly modifies a stream, lake, swamp, bog or any other wetland or aquatic area constituting surface water. Any discharge of dredged or fill material into surface water incidental to the construction of any

such structure or waterway requires a VWP permit, unless otherwise excluded or exempted by this regulation.

(4) "Plowing" means all forms of primary tillage, including moldboard, chisel, or wide-blade plowing, discing, harrowing, and similar physical means used on farm or forest land for the breaking up, cutting, turning over, or stirring of soil to prepare it for the planting of crops. Plowing does not include the redistribution of soil, rock, sand, or other surficial materials in a manner which changes any area of surface water to dry land. For example, the redistribution of surface materials by blading, grading, or other means to fill in wetland areas is not plowing. Rock crushing activities which result in the loss of natural drainage characteristics, the reduction of water storage and recharge capabilities, or the overburden of natural water filtration capacities does not constitute plowing. Plowing as described above will never involve a discharge of dredged or fill material.

(5) "Seeding" means the sowing of seed and placement of seedlings to produce farm or forest crops and includes the placement of soil beds for seeds or seedlings on established farm and forest lands.

9. Maintenance, including emergency reconstruction of recently damaged parts of currently serviceable structures, such as dikes, groins, levees, dams, riprap breakwaters, causeways, bridge abutments or approaches, and transportation and utility structures. Maintenance does not include modifications that change the character, scope, or size of the original design. In order to qualify for this exclusion, emergency reconstruction must occur within a reasonable period of time after damage occurs.

10. Construction or maintenance of farm ponds or impoundments, stock ponds or impoundments, or irrigation ditches, or the maintenance (but not construction) of drainage ditches.

a. The exclusion for the construction and maintenance of farm or stock ponds and farm or stock impoundments applies to those structures that are operated for normal agricultural or silvicultural purposes, and are less than 25 feet in height or create a maximum impoundment capacity smaller than 100 acre-feet.

b. The exclusion for the construction and maintenance of farm or stock ponds and farm or stock impoundments does not include the impacts associated with the withdrawal of surface water from, within, or behind such structures. A VWP permit may be required for the surface water withdrawal.

c. Discharge associated with siphons, pumps, headgates, wingwalls, weirs, diversion structures, and such other facilities as are appurtenant and functionally related to irrigation ditches are included in this exclusion.

d. The maintenance dredging of existing ditches is included in this exclusion provided that the final dimensions of the maintained ditch do not exceed the average dimensions of the original ditch. This exclusion does not apply to the construction of new ditches or to the channelization of streams.

11. Construction of temporary sedimentation basins on a construction site which does not include the placement of fill materials into surface waters or excavation in wetlands. The term "construction site" refers to any site involving the erection of buildings, roads, and other discrete structures and the installation of support facilities necessary for construction and utilization of such structures. The term "construction site" also includes any other land areas which involve land-disturbing excavation activities, including quarrying or other mining activities, where an increase in run-off of sediment is controlled through the use of temporary sedimentation basins.

12. Construction or maintenance of farm roads, forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining equipment, where such roads are constructed and maintained in accordance with applicable best management practices (BMPs) set forth in either Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality in Virginia, Technical Guide, Fourth Edition, July 2002, or Virginia Agricultural BMP Manual, 2000, to ensure that flow and circulation patterns and chemical and biological characteristics of surface waters are not impaired, that the reach of such waters is not reduced, and that any adverse effect on the aquatic environment will otherwise be minimized. The BMPs which must be applied to satisfy this provision include the following baseline provisions:

- a. Permanent roads (for agriculture or forestry activities), temporary access roads (for mining, forestry, or farm purposes), and skid trails (for logging) in surface waters shall be held to the minimum feasible number, width, and total length consistent with the purpose of specific agriculture, silviculture or mining operations, and local topographic and climatic conditions;
- b. All roads, temporary or permanent, shall be located sufficiently far from streams or other water bodies (except for portions of such roads which must cross water bodies) to minimize discharges of dredged or fill material into surface waters;
- c. The road fill shall be bridged, culverted, or otherwise designed to prevent the restriction of expected flood flows;
- d. The fill shall be properly stabilized and maintained to prevent erosion during and following construction;
- e. Discharges of dredged or fill material into surface waters to construct road fill shall be made in a manner which minimizes the encroachment of trucks, tractors, bulldozers, or other heavy equipment within state waters (including adjacent wetlands) that lie outside the lateral boundaries of the fill itself;
- f. In designing, constructing, and maintaining roads, vegetative disturbance in surface waters shall be kept to a minimum;
- g. The design, construction and maintenance of the road crossing shall not disrupt the migration or other movement of those species of aquatic life inhabiting the water body;
- h. Borrow material shall be taken from upland sources whenever feasible;
- i. The discharge shall not take, or jeopardize the continued existence of a state- or federally-listed threatened or endangered species as defined under the Endangered Species Act (16 USC § 1531 et seq.), in § 29.1-566 of the Code of Virginia and in 4VAC15-20-130 B and C, except as provided in § 29.1-568 of the Code of Virginia, or adversely modify or destroy the critical habitat of such species;
- j. Discharges into the nesting and breeding areas for migratory waterfowl, spawning areas, and wetlands shall be avoided if practical alternatives exist;

k. The discharge shall not be located in proximity of a public water supply or intake;

l. The discharge shall not occur in areas of concentrated shellfish production;

m. The discharge shall not occur in a component to the National Wild and Scenic River System;

n. The discharge material shall consist of suitable material free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts; and

o. All temporary fills shall be removed in their entirety and the area restored to its original elevation.

B. The following surface water withdrawals are excluded from VWP permit requirements. Activities, other than the surface water withdrawal, which are contained in 9VAC25-210-50 and are associated with the construction and operation of the surface water withdrawal, are subject to VWP permit requirements unless excluded by subsection A of this section. Other permits under state and federal law may be required.

1. Any surface water withdrawal in existence on July 1, 1989; however, a permit shall be required if a new § 401 certification is required to increase a withdrawal. To qualify for this exclusion, the surface water withdrawal shall be deemed to be in existence on July 1, 1989, if there was an actual withdrawal on or before that date that has not been abandoned.

a. Abandonment of a surface water withdrawal. A surface water withdrawal shall be deemed to be abandoned if the owner of the withdrawal system (i) notifies the DEQ in writing that the withdrawal has been abandoned or (ii) removes or disables the withdrawal system with the intent to permanently cease such withdrawal. Transfer of ownership or operational control of the withdrawal system, a change in use of the water, or temporary cessation of the withdrawal shall not be deemed evidence of abandonment. The notification shall be signed by the owner of record or shall include evidence satisfactory to the DEQ that the signatory is authorized to submit the notice on behalf of the owner of record. Evidence may include, but shall not be limited to, a resolution of the governing body of the owner or corporate minutes.

b. Information to be furnished to the DEQ. Each owner or operator of a permanent withdrawal system engaging in a withdrawal that is subject to this exclusion shall provide the DEQ the estimated maximum capacity of the intake structure, the location of the existing intake structure and any other information that may be required by the board. Each owner or operator of a temporary withdrawal system engaging in a withdrawal that is subject to this exclusion, where the purpose of the withdrawal is for agriculture, shall provide to the DEQ the maximum annual surface water withdrawal over the last 10 years. The information shall be provided within one year of the date that notice of such request is received from the DEQ and shall be updated when the maximum capacity of the existing intake structure changes. The information provided to the DEQ shall not constitute a limit on the exempted withdrawal. Such information shall be utilized by the DEQ and board to protect existing beneficial uses and shall be considered when evaluating applications for new withdrawal permits.

2. Any surface water withdrawal not in existence on July 1, 1989, if the person proposing to make the withdrawal received a § 401 certification before January 1, 1989, with respect to installation of any necessary withdrawal structures to make such withdrawal; however, a permit shall be required before any such withdrawal is increased beyond the amount authorized by the certification.

3. Any existing lawful unpermitted surface water withdrawal initiated between July 1, 1989, and July 25, 2007, which is not subject to other exclusions contained in this section. These withdrawals shall be excluded from permit requirements only if they comply with the conditions in this subdivision. Regardless of complying with the conditions of this subdivision, these withdrawals shall require a permit for any increased withdrawal amount.

a. Information to be furnished to the DEQ. Each owner or operator of a withdrawal system engaging in a withdrawal that is subject to this exclusion shall provide the DEQ with copies of water withdrawal reports required by Water Withdrawal Reporting Regulations (9VAC25-200) documenting the largest 12-consecutive month withdrawal that occurred in the 10 years prior to July 25, 2007. In the case

of unreported agricultural surface water withdrawals, estimates of withdrawals will be accepted that are based on one of the following:

(1) The area irrigated, depth of irrigation, and annual number of irrigations; pumping capacity and annual pumping time; annual energy consumption for pumps; number and type of livestock watered annually; number and type of livestock where water is used for cooling purposes; or

(2) Other methods approved by the board for the largest 12 consecutive month withdrawal that occurred in the 10 years prior to July 25, 2007. The board shall evaluate all estimates of surface water withdrawals based on projected water demands for crops and livestock as published by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, the United States Natural Resources Conservation Service, or other similar references and make a determination whether they are reasonable. In all cases only reasonable estimates will be used to document the excluded withdrawal amount.

b. The information noted in subdivision 3 a of this subsection shall be provided within 12 months of July 25, 2007. The information provided to the DEQ shall constitute a limit on the withdrawal that is excluded from permit requirements; any increase in that withdrawal above the limited amount shall require an application for a permit for the withdrawal system. Information regarding excluded withdrawal amounts shall be utilized by the DEQ and board to protect existing beneficial uses and shall be considered when evaluating applications for new withdrawal permits.

c. All owners and operators of surface water withdrawals excluded from permit requirements by this section shall annually report withdrawals as required by Water Withdrawal Reporting Regulations (9VAC25-200). Failure to file annual reports either reporting actual withdrawals or the fact that withdrawals did not occur may result in the owner or operator being required to file an application and receive a permit prior to resuming any withdrawal.

4. Agricultural surface water withdrawals from nontidal waters that total less than one million gallons in a single month.

5. Surface water withdrawals from nontidal waters for all other purposes that total less than 10,000 gallons per day.
6. Surface water withdrawals from tidal waters for nonconsumptive uses.
7. Agricultural surface water withdrawals from tidal waters that total less than 60 million gallons in a single month.
8. Surface water withdrawals from tidal waters for all other consumptive purposes that total less than two million gallons per day.
9. Surface water withdrawals for firefighting or for the training activities related to firefighting, such as dry hydrants and emergency surface water withdrawals.
10. Surface water withdrawals placed into portable containers by persons owning property on, or holding easements to, riparian lands.
11. Surface water withdrawals for the purposes of hydrostatic pressure testing of water tight containers, pipelines, and vessels.
12. Surface water withdrawals for normal single family home residential gardening, lawn, and landscape maintenance.
13. Surface water withdrawals that are located on a property, such that the withdrawal returns to the stream of origin; not more than half of the instantaneous flow is diverted; not more than 1,000 feet of stream channel separate the withdrawal point from the return point; and both banks of the affected stream segment are located within that property boundary.
14. Surface water withdrawals from quarry pits, such that the withdrawal does not alter the physical, biological, or chemical properties of surface waters connected to the quarry pit.
15. Surface water withdrawals from a privately owned agriculture pond, emergency water storage facility, or other water retention facility, provided that such pond or facility is not placed in the bed of a perennial or intermittent stream or wetland. Surface water withdrawals from such facilities constructed in beds of ephemeral streams are excluded from permit requirements.

C. DEQ may require any owner or operator of a withdrawal system excluded from permit requirements by subdivisions B 3 through 15 of this section to cease withdrawals and file an application and receive a permit prior to resuming any withdrawal when the board's assessment indicates that a withdrawal, whether individually or in combination with other existing or proposed projects:

1. Causes or contributes to, or may reasonably be expected to cause or contribute to, a significant impairment of the state waters or fish and wildlife resources;
2. Adversely impacts other existing beneficial uses; or
3. Will cause or contribute to a violation of water quality standards.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia; § 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 1.6, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007; Volume 24, Issue 9, eff. February 6, 2008; Volume 25, Issue 5, eff. December 10, 2008.

9VAC25-210-70. Effect of a VWP permit.

A. As to the permitted activity, compliance with a VWP permit constitutes compliance with the VWP permit requirements of the Law and regulations.

B. The issuance of a VWP permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights or any infringement of federal, state or local law or regulation.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 1.7, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001.

Part II

VWP Permit Application and Development

9VAC25-210-75. Preapplication procedures for a new or expanded VWP permit for major surface water withdrawals.

A. Preapplication review panel. At the request of an applicant for a surface water supply project, a preapplication review panel shall be convened prior to submission of a VWP application upon request by a potential applicant to the Department of Environmental Quality. The preapplication review panel shall assist potential applicants that are proposing surface water supply projects with the early identification of issues related to the protection of beneficial instream and offstream uses of state waters and the identification of the affected stream reach. The DEQ shall notify the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Department of Health, the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and any other appropriate local, state, and federal agencies of the preapplication review panel request. These agencies shall participate to the extent practicable in the preapplication review panel by providing information and guidance on the potential natural resource impacts and regulatory implications of the options being considered by the applicant and shall provide comments within 60 days of the initial meeting of the preapplication panel.

B. Preapplication public notice. For new or expanded surface water supply projects requiring an individual VWP permit, a potential applicant shall provide information on the project, shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the proposed project, and shall assist in identifying public concerns or issues prior to filing a VWP individual permit application.

1. Except as provided in this subsection, the potential applicant shall provide for publication of notice once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation serving the locality where the surface water supply project is proposed to be located.

2. If requested by any person, the potential applicant shall hold at least one public information meeting. Notice of any public information meeting held pursuant to this subsection shall be provided at least 14 days prior to the public information meeting date and shall be published in the same manner as required in subdivision 1 of this subsection. A potential applicant shall submit the notice to the DEQ for posting on the DEQ website. At a minimum, any notice required by this subsection shall include:

- a. A statement of the potential applicant's intent to apply for a VWP permit for a surface water supply project;
- b. The proposed location of the surface water supply project;
- c. Information on how the public may request a public information meeting or in the alternative, the date, time and location of the public information meeting;
- d. The name, address and telephone number of the potential applicant, or an authorized representative who can answer questions or receive comments on the proposed surface water supply project; and
- e. A statement of how any oral or written public comments will be used.

3. In accordance with the provisions of 9VAC25-780-50 C 11 and 9VAC25-780-150, a potential applicant shall not be required to publish public notice or provide an opportunity for a public information meeting if a public meeting has been held within two years prior to the submittal of an application for a VWP permit on a local or regional water supply plan, which includes the proposed project.

4. The potential applicant shall maintain a list of persons and their addresses making comment and shall make a good faith effort to notify commenters, at the address provided by the commenter, when the public notice for the draft VWP individual permit is available.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007.

9VAC25-210-80. Application for a VWP permit.

A. Application for a VWP Permit. Any person who is required to obtain a VWP permit , except those persons applying for a VWP permit for a minor surface water withdrawal or an emergency VWP permit, shall submit a complete VWP permit application to DEQ through the most current Joint Permit Application procedures, as established within each type of Joint Permit Application (JPA). The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) may use its monthly Interagency Coordination Meeting (IACM) process for submitting JPAs. There shall be no commencement of any activity subject to the VWP permit program regulation prior to the issuance of a VWP permit or VWP general permit authorization.

B. Informational requirements for a VWP Permit Application, except applications for minor surface water withdrawals or emergency VWP permits.

1. A complete VWP permit application, at a minimum, consists of the following information:

a. Name , mailing address, telephone number, and if applicable, fax number of applicant .

b. If different from applicant, name, mailing address, telephone number, and if applicable, fax number of property owner.

c. If applicable, name of authorized agent, mailing address , telephone number, and if applicable, fax number and electronic mail address.

d. Name of the impacted waterbody or waterbodies, or receiving waters, as applicable, at the project site.

e. Name of the city or county where the project occurs.

f. Project purpose, need and description. The purpose and need for the project shall be specified. A complete narrative description of the project shall include: the name of the project; the type of activity to be conducted; any physical alteration to surface waters; and all impacts, permanent and temporary, associated with the project. Wetland impacts should be quantified and identified according to their Cowardin classification or similar terminology. Conversion of one type of wetland to another type of wetland is considered to be a permanent impact. Stream impacts should be quantified and identified based on geomorphological types.

g. Amount of wetland impacts (by type in acres or square feet), stream impacts (in linear feet) , and in square feet for purposes of calculating the permit application fee, when applicable, and open water impacts (by type in square feet or acres, as applicable).

h. Materials assessment. If dredged material from on-site areas or fill material from off-site areas is involved, the applicant must provide evidence or certification that the material is free from toxic contaminants prior to disposal, or that the material, if not free of contaminants, will be placed in an approved disposal area. If applicable, the applicant may be required to conduct grain size and composition analyses, tests for specific parameters or chemical constituents, or elutriate tests on the dredge material.

i. Proposed construction schedule. An estimate of the construction timeframe for the project will be used to determine the VWP permit term.

j. Signed and dated signature page. The application signature page, either on the copy submitted to VMRC or to the DEQ, must have an original signature. Electronic submittals containing the original-signature page, such as that contained in a scanned document file, are acceptable.

k. The latitude and longitude (to the nearest second) at the center of the project, United States Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Code for the project and compensatory mitigation site, DEQ stream classification, stream drainage area, functions and values assessment for wetlands impacts (if applicable), beneficial uses evaluation for instream flow and surface water withdrawal projects (if applicable), wetlands delineation information, state- and federally-listed threatened and endangered species information, mitigation plan (demonstrating avoidance and minimization to the maximum extent practicable, and compensation for unavoidable impacts).

(1) For wetland impacts greater than one acre (1.0 acre or 43,560 square feet), the assessment of functional values of the affected surface waters must include information on : surrounding land uses and cover types; nutrient, sediment, and pollutant trapping; flood control and flood storage capacity; erosion control and

shoreline stabilization; groundwater recharge and discharge; aquatic and wildlife habitat; and unique or critical habitats. Functional values may also include: water quality, floodflow desynchronization, nutrient import or export, stormwater retention or detention, recreation, education, aesthetics , or other beneficial uses. These values shall be assessed using an acceptable method appropriate for the type of impacted resource. This information will be used to determine the type of compensatory mitigation required to ensure no net loss of wetland functions.

(2) Evaluation of beneficial uses for instream flow and surface water withdrawal projects includes both instream and offstream uses. Instream beneficial uses include, but are not limited to: the protection of fish and wildlife habitat; maintenance of waste assimilation; recreation; navigation; and cultural and aesthetic values. Offstream beneficial uses include, but are not limited to: domestic (including public water supply); agricultural; electric power generation; and commercial and industrial uses.

(3) The assessment of potential impacts to federally-listed and state-listed threatened or endangered species shall include correspondence or documentation from federal or state resource agencies addressing potential impacts to listed species.

(4) A delineation map must be provided of the geographic area of a delineated wetland for all wetlands on the site, in accordance with 9VAC25-210-45, including the wetlands data sheets, and the latitude and longitude (to the nearest second) of the center of the wetland impact area. Wetland types shall be noted according to their Cowardin classification or similar terminology. A copy of the USACE delineation confirmation, or other correspondence from the USACE indicating their approval of the wetland boundary, shall also be provided at the time of application, or if not available at that time, as soon as it becomes available during the VWP permit review. The delineation map should also include the location of all impacted and non-impacted streams, open water and other surface waters on the site. The approximate limits of any Chesapeake Bay Resource Protection

Areas (RPAs) shall be shown on the map as additional state or local requirements may apply if the project is located within an RPA.

(5) The plan of mitigation for impacts to surface waters must include, in accordance with current federal regulations: measures taken to avoid impacts to the maximum extent practicable, the measures proposed to reduce the impacts to surface waters to the maximum extent practicable, and where impacts could not be avoided, the means by which compensation will be accomplished to achieve no net loss of wetland acreage and functions or stream functions and water quality benefits.

(a) A narrative description must be provided detailing the measures taken during project design and development both to avoid and minimize impacts to surface waters to the maximum extent practicable (see 9VAC25-210-115).

(b) In order for an application to be deemed complete, a conceptual wetland compensatory mitigation plan must be submitted for unavoidable permanent impacts to wetlands, unless dependent solely on mitigation banking or monetary contribution to an in-lieu fee fund, and shall include at a minimum: the goals and objectives in terms of replacement of wetland acreage and functions; a detailed location map (for example, a United States Geologic Survey topographic quadrangle map), including latitude and longitude (to the nearest second) and the hydrologic unit code (HUC) at the center of the site; a description of the surrounding land use; a hydrologic analysis, including a draft water budget based on expected monthly inputs and outputs which will project water level elevations for a typical year, a dry year and a wet year; groundwater elevation data, if available, or the proposed location of groundwater monitoring wells to collect these data; wetland delineation confirmation and data sheets and maps for existing surface water areas on the proposed site(s); a conceptual grading plan; a conceptual planting scheme, including suggested plant species and zonation of each vegetation type proposed; a description of existing soils, including general information on both topsoil and subsoil conditions, permeability, and the need for soil amendments; a draft design of any water control structures; inclusion of buffer

areas; a description of any structures and features necessary for the success of the site; the schedule for compensatory mitigation site construction; and proposed deed restriction language for protecting the compensation site or sites, including all surface waters and buffer areas within its boundaries, in perpetuity.

(c) In order for an application to be deemed complete, a conceptual stream compensatory mitigation plan must be submitted for unavoidable permanent impacts to streams, unless dependent solely on mitigation banking or monetary contribution to an in-lieu fee fund, and shall include at a minimum: the goals and objectives in terms of water quality benefits and replacement of stream functions; a detailed location map (for example, a United States Geologic Survey topographic quadrangle map), including the latitude and longitude (to the nearest second) and the hydrologic unit code (HUC) at the center of the site; a description of the surrounding land use; the proposed stream segment restoration locations, including plan view and cross-section sketches; the stream deficiencies that need to be addressed; the proposed restoration measures to be employed, including channel measurements, proposed design flows, types of instream structures, and conceptual planting scheme; reference stream data, if available; inclusion of buffer areas; schedule for restoration activities; and proposed deed restriction language for protecting the compensation site or sites, including all surface waters and buffer areas within its boundaries, in perpetuity.

(d) Compensation for open water impacts may be required, as appropriate, to protect state waters and fish and wildlife resources from significant impairment.

(e) Any compensation plan shall include measures for the control of undesirable species.

(f) Any compensation plan proposing to include contributions to an in-lieu fee fund shall include proof of the willingness of the entity to accept the donation and documentation of how the amount of the contribution was calculated.

(g) Any compensation plan proposing the purchase or use of mitigation banking credits shall include: (i) the name of the proposed mitigation bank and the HUC in

which it is located; (ii) the number of credits proposed to be purchased or used; and (iii) certification from the bank owner of the availability of credits.

(h) Applicants proposing off-site compensatory mitigation, including purchase or use of mitigation bank credits, or contribution to an in-lieu fee fund shall first discuss the feasibility of on-site compensatory mitigation. If on-site compensatory mitigation is practicable, applicants must provide documentation as to why the proposed off-site compensatory mitigation is ecologically preferable (see 9VAC25-210-116 B).

I. Detailed project location map. The detailed location map (for example, a United States Geologic Survey topographic quadrangle map) including the project boundary. The map should be of sufficient detail such that the site may be easily located for site inspection.

m. Project plan view and cross-sectional sketches. All plan view sketches and cross-sectional sketches must include, at a minimum, north arrow, scale, existing structures, existing and proposed (if available) contours, limit of surface water areas, ebb and flood or direction of flow, ordinary high water elevation, impact limits, and location and dimension of all structures in impact areas. Profile sketches with the above information shall be required as appropriate to demonstrate minimization of impacts.

n. Application processing fee. The applicant will be notified by the board as to the appropriate fee for the project in accordance with 9VAC25-20. The board will continue to process the application, but the fee must be received prior to release of a draft VWP permit.

2. In addition to requirements of subdivision 1 of this subsection, applications involving instream flow requirements, major surface water withdrawals or a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or re-license shall include:

a. The drainage area, the average annual flow and the median monthly flows at the withdrawal point, and historical low flows if available;

b. The average daily withdrawal, the maximum daily and instantaneous withdrawals and information on the variability of the demand by season;

- c. The consumptive use and the average daily return flow of the proposed project and the location of the return flow;
- d. Information on flow dependent beneficial uses along the affected stream reach;
- e. Information on the aquatic life along the affected stream reach, including species and habitat requirements;
- f. Information on how the proposed withdrawal will alter flows along the affected stream reach;
- g. Information on the proposed use of and need for the surface water and information on how demand for surface water was determined (for example, per capita use, population growth rates, new uses, changes to service areas, and if applicable; acreage irrigated and evapotranspiration effects). If during the water supply planning process, the need for the withdrawal was established, the applicant may submit said planning process information, provided that the submittal address all requirements of 9VAC25-210-115 B. The board shall deem such a submittal as meeting the requirements of this subsection. For public surface water supply withdrawal projects see also 9VAC25-780-100 and 9VAC25-780-130;
- h. For new or expanded surface water supply projects, a summary of the steps taken to seek public input as required by 9VAC25-210-75 and an identification of the issues raised during the course of the public information meeting process; and
- i. For surface water withdrawals, other than public water supplies, information to demonstrate that alternate sources of water supply are available to support the operation of the facility during times of reduced instream flow.

C. Applications for new or expanded minor surface water withdrawals, using the DEQ Application for New or Expanded Minor Surface Water Withdrawals Initiated On or After July 25, 2007, shall include:

1. Name, mailing address, telephone number, and if applicable, fax number and electronic mail address of applicant;
2. If different from applicant, name, mailing address, telephone number, and if applicable, fax number and electronic mail address of property owner;

3. If applicable, name of authorized agent, mailing address, telephone number, and if applicable, fax number and electronic mail address;
4. Name of waterbody or waterbodies, or receiving waters, as applicable;
5. Documentation of all withdrawals associated with the application, including, but not limited to, the amount of the requested surface water withdrawal, a description of the proposed intake structure, and a schedule of the proposed withdrawal that describes any seasonal variations in withdrawal patterns;
6. Locations of all withdrawals associated with the application shown on a detailed location map (for example, a United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic map or similar maps of reasonable detail to show land and water features);
7. Name of the city or county where the project occurs;
8. Signed and dated signature page (electronic submittals containing the original-signature page, such as that contained in a scanned document file are acceptable);
9. Application processing fee in accordance with 9VAC25; and
10. Any application for a minor surface water withdrawal for a public surface water supply withdrawal project shall provide an evaluation of project alternatives as required in 9VAC25-210-115.

D. Applications for an Emergency Virginia Water Protection Permit to address a public water supply emergency :

1. Applications for an Emergency Virginia Water Protection Permit shall include the information noted below in subdivisions a through o. The JPA may be used for emergency applications purposes, provided that all of the information below is included:

- a. Name, mailing address, telephone number, and if applicable, fax number and electronic mail address of applicant;
- b. If different from applicant, name, mailing address, telephone number, and if applicable, fax number and electronic mail address of property owner;
- c. If applicable, name of authorized agent, mailing address, telephone number, and if applicable, fax number and electronic mail address;

- d. Name of waterbody or waterbodies, or receiving waters, as applicable;
- e. Name of the city or county where the project occurs;
- f. Signed and dated signature page (electronic submittals containing the original-signature page, such as that contained in a scanned document file are acceptable);
- g. Application processing fee in accordance with 9VAC25-20;
- h. The drainage area, the average annual flow and the median monthly flows at the withdrawal point, and historical low flows if available;
- i. Information on the aquatic life along the affected stream reach, including species and habitat requirements;
- j. Recent and current water use including monthly water use in the previous calendar year and weekly water use in the previous six months prior to the application. The application shall identify the sources of such water and also identify any water purchased from other water suppliers;
- k. A description of the severity of the public water supply emergency, including for reservoirs, an estimate of days of remaining supply at current rates of use and replenishment; for wells, current production; for intakes, current streamflow;
- l. A description of mandatory water conservation measures taken or imposed by the applicant and the dates when the measures were implemented; for the purposes of obtaining an Emergency Virginia Water Protection Permit, mandatory water conservation measures shall include, but not be limited to, the prohibition of lawn and landscape watering, vehicle washing, the watering of recreation fields, refilling of swimming pools, the washing of paved surfaces;
- m. An estimate of water savings realized by implementing mandatory water conservation measures;
- n. Documentation that the applicant has exhausted all management actions that would minimize the threat to public welfare, safety and health and will avoid the need to obtain an emergency permit, and that are consistent with existing permit limitations; and

o. Any other information that demonstrates that the condition is a substantial threat to public health or safety.

2. Within 14 days after the issuance of an Emergency Virginia Water Protection Permit, the permit holder shall apply for a VWP permit under the other provisions of this regulation.

E. Additional information. The board shall require additional information if needed to evaluate compliance with this chapter.

F. Incomplete application. Where an application is not accepted as complete by the board within 15 days of receipt, the board shall require the submission of additional information from the applicant, and may suspend processing of any application until such time as the applicant has supplied the requested information and the board considers the application complete. Further, where the applicant becomes aware that he omitted one or more relevant facts from a VWP permit application or submitted incorrect information in a VWP permit application or in any report to the board, the applicant shall immediately submit such facts or the correct information. A revised application with new information shall be deemed a new application for purpose of reviews, but shall not require additional notice or an additional permit application fee. An incomplete permit application may be administratively withdrawn from processing by the board after 180 days from the date that the original permit application was received by the board for failure to provide required information.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 2.1, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007.

9VAC25-210-90. Conditions applicable to all VWP permits.

A. Duty to comply. The permittee shall comply with all conditions of the VWP permit. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to relieve the permittee of the duty to comply with all applicable federal and state statutes, regulations and prohibitions. Any VWP permit violation is a violation of the law, and is grounds for enforcement action, VWP permit

termination, revocation, modification, or denial of an application for a VWP permit extension or reissuance.

B. Duty to cease or confine activity. It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the activity for which a VWP permit has been granted in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of the VWP permit.

C. Duty to mitigate. The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any impacts in violation of the permit which may have a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

D. Inspection and entry. Upon presentation of credentials, the permittee shall allow the board or any duly authorized agent of the board , at reasonable times and under reasonable circumstances, to conduct the actions listed in this section. For the purpose of this section, the time for inspection shall be deemed reasonable during regular business hours. Nothing contained herein shall make an inspection time unreasonable during an emergency.

1. Enter upon permittee's property, public or private, and have access to, inspect and copy any records that must be kept as part of the VWP permit conditions;
2. Inspect any facilities, operations or practices (including monitoring and control equipment) regulated or required under the VWP permit; and
3. Sample or monitor any substance, parameter or activity for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the conditions of the VWP permit or as otherwise authorized by law.

E. Duty to provide information.

1. The permittee shall furnish to the board any information which the board may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking, reissuing or terminating the VWP permit, or to determine compliance with the VWP permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the board, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by the permittee.
2. Plans, maps, conceptual reports and other relevant information shall be submitted as required by the board prior to commencing construction.

F. Monitoring and records requirements.

1. Monitoring of parameters, other than pollutants, shall be conducted according to approved analytical methods as specified in the VWP permit. Analysis of pollutants will be conducted according to 40 CFR Part 136 (2000), Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants.
2. Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity.
3. The permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart or electronic recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by the VWP permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for the VWP permit, for a period of at least three years from the date of the expiration of a granted VWP permit. This period may be extended by request of the board at any time.
4. Records of monitoring information shall include as appropriate:
 - a. The date, exact place and time of sampling or measurements;
 - b. The name of the individuals who performed the sampling or measurements;
 - c. The date and time the analyses were performed;
 - d. The name of the individuals who performed the analyses;
 - e. The analytical techniques or methods supporting the information such as observations, readings, calculations and bench data used;
 - f. The results of such analyses; and
 - g. Chain of custody documentation.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 2.2, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007.

9VAC25-210-100. Signatory requirements.

A. Application. Any application for a VWP permit under this chapter must bear the applicant's signature or the signature of a person acting in the applicant's behalf, with the authority to bind the applicant. Electronic submittals containing the original-signature page, such as that contained in a scanned document file, are acceptable.

B. Reports. All reports required by VWP permits and other information requested by the board shall be signed by:

1. One of the persons described in subsection A of this section; or
2. A duly authorized representative of that person. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:
 - a. The authorization is made in writing by a person described in subsection A of this section; and
 - b. The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity, such as the position of plant manager, superintendent, or position of equivalent responsibility. A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position.
 - c. If an authorization is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the facility, a new authorization must be submitted to the board prior to or together with any separate information, or applications to be signed by an authorized representative.

C. Certification of application and reports. Any person signing a document under subsection A or B of this section shall make the following certification: "I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is to the best of my knowledge and belief true,

accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 2.3, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007.

9VAC25-210-110. Establishing applicable standards, limitations or other VWP permit conditions.

In addition to the conditions established in 9VAC25-210-90 and 9VAC25-210-100, each VWP permit shall include conditions meeting the following requirements where applicable:

A. Conditions applicable to surface water withdrawals:

1. Instream flow conditions. Subject to the provisions of Chapter 24 (§ 62.1-242 et seq.) of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia, and subject to the authority of the State Corporation Commission over hydroelectric facilities contained in Chapter 7 (§ 62.1-80 et seq.) of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia, instream flow conditions may include but are not limited to conditions that limit the volume and rate at which surface water may be withdrawn at certain times and conditions that require water conservation and reductions in water use.

a. In the development of conditions that limit the volume and rate at which surface water may be withdrawn, consideration shall be given to the seasonal needs of water users and the seasonal availability of surface water flow.

b. Consideration shall also be given to the affected stream reach and the amount of water that is put to a consumptive use in the process.

c. In the development of instream flow conditions for new withdrawals, the board shall take into consideration the combined effect on the hydrologic regime within an affected stream reach due to consumptive water uses associated with:

(1) All existing permitted withdrawals;

(2) The total amount of withdrawals excluded from VWP permit requirements; and

(3) Any other existing lawful withdrawals.

d. VWP Permits for surface water withdrawals, other than public water supplies, shall identify how alternate sources of water supply will be made available to support the operation of the permitted facility during times when surface water withdrawals will be curtailed due to instream flow requirements or shall provide for modification of the operation of the facility to assure compliance with permit conditions. Such modifications may include, but are not limited to, termination or reduction of activities at the facility that are dependent on the permitted withdrawal, increase capacity to capture and store higher flows or implementation of other potential management options.

2. VWP permits issued for surface water withdrawals from the Potomac River between the Shenandoah River confluence and Little Falls shall contain a condition that requires the permittee to reduce withdrawals when the restriction or emergency stage is declared in the Washington Metropolitan Area under the provisions of the Potomac River Low Flow Allocation Agreement; or when the operating rules outlined by the Drought-Related Operations Manual for the Washington Metropolitan Area Water Suppliers, an attachment to the Water Supply Coordination Agreement, are in effect. The department, after consultation with the Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations on the Potomac (CO-OP) shall direct the permittee as to when , by what quantity and for what duration withdrawals shall be reduced.

3. New or expanded minor surface water withdrawals. The board may issue permits for new or expanded minor surface water withdrawals after July 25, 2007, which are not excluded from the requirements of this chapter by 9VAC25-210-60, based on the following criteria:

a. The amount of the surface water withdrawal is limited to the amount of water that can be put to beneficial use.

b. Based on the size and location of the surface water withdrawal, the withdrawal is not likely to have a detrimental impact on existing instream or off-stream uses.

c. Based on an assessment by the board, this withdrawal, whether individually or in combination with other existing or proposed projects, does not cause or contribute to, or may not reasonably be expected to cause or contribute to:

- (1) A significant impairment of the state waters or fish and wildlife resources;
- (2) Adverse impacts on other existing beneficial uses; or
- (3) A violation of water quality standards.

d. In cases where the board's assessment indicates that criteria contained subdivision 3 b or c of this subsection are not met, the board may:

- (1) Issue a permit with any special conditions necessary to assure these criteria are met, or
- (2) Require the applicant to apply for a VWP permit as described in 9VAC25-210-80 A and B. Such applications shall be subject to all applicable requirements contained in this regulation.

B. Water quality standards and state requirements. The VWP permit shall include requirements to comply with all appropriate provisions of state laws and regulations.

C. Toxic pollutants.

1. Where the board finds that appropriate limitations may not ensure compliance with the law or state water quality standards the board shall require the permittee to follow a program of biological or chemical toxics monitoring. The requirement may include a VWP permit reopener to allow the imposition of toxicity reduction or elimination measures determined to be necessary as a result of the board's evaluation of the results of the toxic monitoring and other available information. Based upon this determination, appropriate limitations will be included in the VWP permit to ensure the reduction or elimination of toxic pollutants and allow the board to ensure that the proposed project will comply with water quality standards and other appropriate requirements of the law.

2. Limitations will be included in the VWP permit to control all toxic pollutants which the board determines (based on information reported in a VWP permit application or

a notification or on other information) are or may be discharged at a level which would adversely affect the beneficial use of the receiving waters.

D. Monitoring requirements as conditions of VWP permits may include but are not limited to:

1. Requirements concerning the proper use, maintenance and installation, when appropriate, of monitoring equipment or methods (including biological monitoring methods when appropriate) when required as a condition of the VWP permit;
2. Required monitoring including type, intervals, and frequency sufficient to yield data which are representative of the monitored activity and including, when appropriate, continuous monitoring and composite samples;
3. Applicable reporting requirements based upon the impact of the regulated activity on water quality; and
4. Requirements to report monitoring results with a frequency dependent on the nature and effect of the regulated activity.

E. Best Management Practices (BMPs). The VWP permit may require the use of BMPs to control or abate the discharge of pollutants.

F. Reissued VWP permits. When a VWP permit is renewed or reissued, limitations, standards or conditions must be in conformance with current limitations, standards, or conditions.

G. Reopening VWP permits. Each VWP permit shall have a condition allowing the reopening of the VWP permit for the purpose of modifying the conditions of the VWP permit to meet new regulatory standards duly adopted by the board. Cause for reopening VWP permits includes, but is not limited to when the circumstances on which the previous VWP permit was based have materially and substantially changed, or special studies conducted by the board or the permittee show material and substantial change, since the time the VWP permit was issued and thereby constitute cause for VWP permit modification or revocation and reissuance.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 2.4, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 16, Issue 25, eff. September 27, 2000; Errata, 17:3 VA.R. 433 October 23, 2000; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007.

9VAC25-210-115. Evaluation of project alternatives.

A. When a proposed activity involves a major surface water withdrawal , public surface water supply withdrawal project, or alteration of instream flows, the applicant shall first identify the purpose of the proposed project. In identifying the project purpose, the applicant shall provide a narrative describing the water supply issues that form the basis of the proposed project purpose.

B. When a proposed activity involves a major surface water withdrawal, a public surface water supply withdrawal project, or the alteration of instream flows, the applicant shall subsequently demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board that the project meets an established local water supply need. In establishing local need, the applicant shall provide the following information:

1. Existing supply sources, yields and demands, including:

- a. Peak day and average daily withdrawal;
- b. The safe yield and lowest daily flow of record;
- c. Types of water uses; and
- d. Existing water conservation measures and drought response plan, including what conditions trigger their implementation.

2. Projected demands over a minimum 30-year planning period, including the following:

- a. Projected demand contained in the local or regional water supply plan developed in accordance with 9VAC25-780 or for the project service area, if such area is smaller than the planning area; or
- b. Statistical population (growth) trends; and
- c. Projected demands by use type; and

- d. Projected demand without water conservation measures; and
- e. Projected demands with long-term water conservation measures.

C. For all proposed projects, the applicant shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board that avoidance and minimization opportunities have been identified and applied to the proposed activity, that practicable alternatives, including design alternatives, have been evaluated for the proposed activity, and that the proposed activity, in terms of impacts to water quality and fish and wildlife resources, is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative.

1. Avoidance and minimization includes, but is not limited to, steps taken in accordance with the Guideline for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material, 40 CFR Part 230 (Federal Register, December 24, 1980) to first avoid and then minimize adverse impacts to surface waters to the maximum extent practicable. Measures, such as reducing the size, scope, configuration, or density of the proposed project, that would avoid or result in less adverse impact to surface waters shall be considered to the maximum extent practicable.

2. Any alternatives analysis conducted specifically for public surface water supply withdrawal projects shall include:

a. The range of alternatives to be analyzed by the applicant as follows:

(1) All applicable alternatives contained in the local or regional water supply plan developed in accordance with 9VAC25-780;

(2) Alternatives that are practicable or feasible from both a technical and economic standpoint that had not been identified in the local or regional water supply plan developed in accordance with 9VAC25-780;

(3) Alternatives that are available to the applicant but not necessarily under the current jurisdiction of the applicant; and

(4) Water conservation measures that could be considered as a means to reduce demand for each alternative considered by the applicant.

b. The applicant shall provide a narrative description that outlines the opportunities and status of regionalization efforts undertaken by the applicant.

c. The criteria used to evaluate each alternative for the purpose of establishing the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative, which includes but is not limited to:

(1) Demonstration that the proposed alternative meets the project purpose and project demonstrated need as documented pursuant to subsections A and B of this section;

(2) Availability of the alternative to the applicant;

(3) Evaluation of interconnectivity of water supply systems (both existing and proposed);

(4) Evaluation of the cost of the alternative on an equivalent basis;

(5) Evaluation of alternative safe yields;

(6) Presence and potential impact of alternative on state and federally listed threatened and endangered species;

(7) Presence and potential impact of alternative on wetlands and streams (based on maps and aerial photos for all alternatives, field delineation required for preferred alternative);

(8) Evaluation of effects on instream flow; and

(9) Water Quality Considerations, including:

(a) Land use within a watershed where the type of land use may impact the water quality of the source;

(b) The presence of impaired streams and the type of impairment;

(c) The location of point source discharges; and

(d) Potential threats to water quality other than those listed in subdivisions 2 c (9)

(a) through (c) of this subsection.

3. Any alternatives analysis conducted for projects that involve a surface water withdrawal or alteration of instream flows, other than public surface water supply withdrawal projects shall include all applicable items included in subdivision 2 of this subsection.

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; amended, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007.

9VAC25-210-116. Compensation.

A. No net loss. Compensatory mitigation for project impacts shall be sufficient to achieve no net loss of existing wetland acreage and no net loss of functions in all surface waters. Compensatory mitigation ratios appropriate for the type of aquatic resource impacted and the type of compensation provided shall be applied to permitted impacts to help meet this requirement. Credit may be given for preservation of upland buffers already protected under other ordinances to the extent that additional protection and water quality and fish and wildlife resource benefits are provided.

B. Practicable and ecologically preferable compensation alternatives.

1. An analysis shall be required to justify that off-site compensatory mitigation (including purchase or use of mitigation bank credits or contribution to an in-lieu fee fund) or out-of-kind compensatory mitigation is more ecologically preferable to practicable on-site or in-kind compensation.

2. Such analysis shall include, but is not limited to, the following criteria, which shall be compared between the impacted and replacement sites: water quality benefits; acreage of impacts; distance from impacts; hydrologic source and regime; watershed; functions and values; vegetation type; soils; constructability; timing of compensation versus impact; property acquisition; and cost. The analysis shall compare the ability of each compensatory mitigation option to replace lost wetland acreage and functions or lost stream functions and water quality benefits.

C. Compensatory mitigation proposals shall be evaluated as follows:

1. On-site, in-kind compensatory mitigation, when available, shall be deemed the most ecologically preferable form of compensation for project impacts, in most cases. However, off-site or out-of-kind compensation opportunities that prove to be more ecologically preferable or practicable may be considered. When the applicant can demonstrate satisfactorily that an off-site or out-of-kind compensatory mitigation

proposal is practicable and ecologically preferable, then such proposal may be deemed appropriate for compensation of project impacts.

2. Compensatory mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts may be met through the following options:

- a. Wetland creation;
- b. Wetland restoration;
- c. The purchase or use of credits from a mitigation bank, pursuant to § 62.1-44.15:23 of the Code of Virginia;
- d. A contribution to an approved in-lieu fee fund;
- e. Preservation of upland buffers adjacent to state waters, when utilized in conjunction with subdivision 2 a, b, or c of this subsection, and when consistent with subsection A of this section;
- f. Restoration of upland buffers adjacent to state waters, when utilized in conjunction with subsection a, b, or c, and when consistent with subsection A of this section;
- g. Preservation of wetlands, when utilized in conjunction with subdivision 2 a, b, or c of this subsection.

3. Compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to streams may be met through the following options, as appropriate to replace functions or water quality benefits.

One factor in determining the required compensation shall be an analysis of stream impacts utilizing a stream impact assessment methodology acceptable to the DEQ.

- a. Stream channel restoration or enhancement;
- b. Riparian buffer restoration or enhancement;
- c. Riparian buffer preservation, when consistent with subsection A of this section;
- d. A contribution to an approved in-lieu fee fund;
- e. The purchase or use of credits from a mitigation bank, pursuant to § 62.1-44.15:23 of the Code of Virginia.

4. Generally, preference shall be given in the following sequence: restoration, creation, mitigation banking, in-lieu fee fund. However, the appropriate compensatory

mitigation option for project impacts shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, in terms of replacement of wetland acreage and functions or stream functions and water quality benefits.

D. In-lieu fee fund approval.

1. In order for contribution to an in-lieu fee fund to be an acceptable form of compensatory mitigation, the fund must be approved for use by the board and must be dedicated to the achievement of no net loss of wetland acreage and functions or stream functions and water quality benefits through the preservation, restoration and creation of wetlands or streams.
2. The board may approve the use of a fund by:
 - a. Approving use of a fund for a specific project when approving a VWP permit; or
 - b. Granting approval of a fund at a board meeting.
3. In order for the board to approve the use of a fund, the fund must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Demonstration of a no net loss policy in terms of wetland acreage and functions or stream functions and water quality benefits by adoption of operational goals or objectives for preservation, creation or restoration;
 - b. Consultation with DEQ on selection of sites for preservation, restoration, or creation;
 - c. A commitment to provide annual reports to the board detailing contributions received and acreage and type of wetlands or streams preserved, created or restored in each watershed with those contributions, as well as the mitigation credits contributed for each watershed of project impact;
 - d. A mechanism to establish fee amounts that will ensure each contribution will be adequate to compensate for the wetland acreage and functions or stream functions and water quality benefits lost in the impacted watershed; and
 - e. Such terms and conditions as the board deems necessary to ensure a no net loss of wetland acreage and functions or stream functions and water quality

benefits from permitted projects providing compensatory mitigation through contributions to the fund.

4. Such approval may be granted for up to five years and may be renewed by the board upon a demonstration that the fund has enhanced wetland acreage or functions or stream functions and water quality benefits through the preservation, creation or restoration of wetlands or streams. Such demonstration may be made with the reports submitted pursuant to subdivision 3 c of this subsection.

5. The board may approve the use of an in-lieu fund only after publishing a notice of its intent in the Virginia Register of Regulations at least 45 days prior to taking such action and after accepting and considering public comments on its approval of the fund for at least a 30-day period. Where approval is contemplated in accordance with subdivision 2 a of this subsection, compliance with the public notice and comment requirements for approval of the VWP permit shall meet this requirement.

E. Use of mitigation banks and multi-project mitigation sites. The use of mitigation banks or multi-project mitigation sites for compensating project impacts shall be deemed appropriate if the following criteria are met:

1. The bank or multi-project mitigation site meets the criteria and conditions found in § 62.1-44.15:23 of the Code of Virginia:
2. The bank or multi-project mitigation site is ecologically preferable to practicable on-site and off-site individual compensatory mitigation options;
3. For mitigation banks only, the banking instrument, if approved after July 1, 1996, has been approved by a process that involved public review and comment in accordance with federal guidelines;
4. The applicant provides verification to DEQ of purchase of the required amount of credits; and
5. For multi-project mitigation sites, the VWP permit shall include conditions sufficient to ensure long term monitoring and maintenance of surface water functions and values.

F. The final compensatory mitigation plan must include complete information on all components of the conceptual compensatory mitigation plan detailed in 9VAC25-210-80 B 1 k (5) (b) and (c):

1. For wetlands, the final compensation plan shall also include a summary of the type and acreage of existing wetland impacts anticipated during the construction of the compensation site and the proposed compensation for these impacts; a site access plan; a monitoring plan, including proposed success criteria, monitoring goals, and the location of photostations, monitoring wells, vegetation sampling points, and reference wetlands or streams (if available); an abatement and control plan for undesirable plant species; an erosion and sedimentation control plan; a construction schedule; and the mechanism for protection of the compensation site or sites, including all surface waters and buffer areas within its boundaries. The final wetland compensation plan or plans shall include a mechanism for protection in perpetuity of the compensation sites to include all state waters within the compensation site boundary or boundaries. Such protections shall be in place within 120 days of final compensation plan approval. The restrictions, protections, or preservations, or similar instrument, shall state that no activity will be performed on the property in any area designated as a compensation area with the exception of maintenance or corrective action measures authorized by the board. Unless specifically authorized by the board through the issuance of a VWP individual or general permit, or waiver thereof, this restriction applies to ditching, land clearing or discharge of dredge or fill material. Such instrument shall contain the specific phrase "ditching, land clearing or discharge of dredge or fill material" in the limitations placed on the use of these areas. The protective instrument shall be recorded in the chain of title to the property, or an equivalent instrument for government-owned lands. Proof of recordation shall be submitted within 120 days of final compensation plan approval.

2. For streams, the final compensation plan shall also include a site access plan; an erosion and sedimentation control plan, if appropriate; an abatement and control plan for undesirable plant species; a monitoring plan, including, a monitoring and reporting schedule, monitoring design and methodologies for success; proposed success

criteria; and location of photo-monitoring stations, vegetation sampling points, survey points, bank pins, scour chains, and reference streams; the mechanism for the protection of the compensation site or sites, including all surface waters and buffer areas within its boundaries; a plan view sketch depicting the pattern and all compensation measures being employed; a profile sketch; and cross-sectional sketches of the proposed compensation stream. The final stream compensation plan or plans shall include a mechanism for protection in perpetuity of the compensation sites to include all state waters within the compensation site boundary or boundaries. Such protections shall be in place within 120 days of final compensation plan approval. The restrictions, protections, or preservations, or similar instrument, shall state that no activity will be performed on the property in any area designated as a compensation area with the exception of maintenance or corrective action measures authorized by the board. Unless specifically authorized by the board through the issuance of a VWP individual or general permit, or waiver thereof, this restriction applies to ditching, land clearing or discharge of dredge or fill material. Such instrument shall contain the specific phrase "ditching, land clearing or discharge of dredge or fill material" in the limitations placed on the use of these areas. The protective instrument shall be recorded in the chain of title to the property, or an equivalent instrument for government-owned lands. Proof of recordation shall be submitted within 120 days of final compensation plan approval.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia; § 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007; amended, Virginia Register Volume 24, Issue 9, eff. February 6, 2008.

9VAC25-210-120. Draft VWP permit formulation.

A. After evaluation of a complete application, the board shall make a decision to tentatively issue or deny the VWP permit pursuant to this section.

B. If the tentative decision is to issue the VWP permit then a draft VWP permit shall be prepared in advance of public notice. The following tentative determinations shall be incorporated into a draft VWP permit:

1. Conditions, discharge limitations, standards and other requirements applicable to the VWP permit;
2. Monitoring requirements; and
3. Requirements for mitigation of adverse environmental impacts.

C. If the tentative decision is to deny the application, the board shall do so in accordance with 9VAC25-210-230.

D. Should a decision be made to waive the requirement for a VWP permit, the board shall do so in accordance with 9VAC25-210-220.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 2.5, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001.

9VAC25-210-130. VWP general permits.

A. The board may issue VWP general permits by regulation for certain specified categories of activities as it deems appropriate.

B. When the board determines on a case-by-case basis that concerns for water quality and the aquatic environment so indicate, the board may require individual applications and VWP individual permits rather than approving coverage under a VWP general permit regulation. Cases where an individual VWP permit may be required include the following:

1. Where the activity may be a significant contributor to pollution;
2. Where the applicant or permittee is not in compliance with the conditions of the VWP general permit regulation or authorization;
3. When an applicant or permittee no longer qualifies for coverage under the VWP general permit regulation or authorization; and

4. When a permittee operating under a VWP general permit authorization requests to be excluded from the coverage of the VWP general permit regulation by applying for a VWP individual permit.

C. When a VWP individual permit is issued to a permittee, the applicability of the VWP general permit authorization to the individual permittee is automatically terminated on the effective date of the VWP individual permit.

D. When a VWP general permit regulation is issued which applies to a permittee already covered by a VWP individual permit, such person may request exclusion from the provisions of the VWP general permit regulation and subsequent coverage under a VWP individual permit.

E. A VWP general permit authorization may be revoked from an individual permittee for any of the reasons set forth in 9VAC25-210-180 subject to appropriate opportunity for a hearing.

F. When all permitted activities requiring notification have been completed, the permittee shall be required to submit a notice of termination unless the permittee has previously submitted a termination by consent request for the same permitted activities and such request has been approved by the board.

G. Activities authorized under a VWP general permit regulation shall be authorized for a fixed term based upon project length and duration. When a general permit regulation is amended or replaced, it shall contain provisions such that coverage authorized under the general permit existing as of the effective date of the amended or replacement VWP general permit regulation may continue under the amended or replacement VWP general permit and that all terms and conditions of the authorization may continue in full force and effect. Notwithstanding any other provision, a request for continuation of a VWP general permit authorization beyond the expiration date of such authorization in order to complete monitoring requirements shall not be considered a new application for coverage and no application fee will be charged.

H. The board may certify or certify with conditions a general, regional, or nationwide permit proposed by the USACE in accordance with § 401 of the federal Clean Water Act as

meeting the requirements of this regulation and a VWP general permit, provided that the nationwide or regional permit and the certification conditions:

1. Require that wetland or stream impacts be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable;
2. Prohibit impacts that cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state waters or fish and wildlife resources;
3. Require compensatory mitigation sufficient to achieve no net loss of existing wetland acreage and functions or stream functions and water quality benefits; and
4. Require that compensatory mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts be provided through the following options, as appropriate to replace acreage and function:
 - a. Wetland creation;
 - b. Wetland restoration;
 - c. The purchase or use of credits from a mitigation bank, pursuant to § 62.1-44.15:23 of the Code of Virginia;
 - d. A contribution to an approved in-lieu fee fund;
 - e. Preservation of upland buffers adjacent to state waters, when utilized in conjunction with subdivision 4 a, b, or c of this subsection, and when consistent with 9VAC25-210-116 A;
 - f. Restoration of upland buffers adjacent to state waters, when utilized in conjunction with subdivision 4 a, b, or c of this subsection, and when consistent with 9VAC25-210-116 A;
 - g. Preservation of wetlands, when utilized in conjunction with subdivision 4 a, b, or c of this subsection.
5. Require that compensatory mitigation for unavoidable stream impacts be met through the following options as appropriate to replace functions or water quality benefits; one factor in determining the required compensation shall be an analysis of stream impacts utilizing a stream impact assessment methodology approved by the board:
 - a. Stream channel restoration or enhancement;

- b. Riparian buffer restoration or enhancement;
- c. Riparian buffer preservation, when consistent with 9VAC25-210-116 A;
- d. A contribution to an approved in-lieu fee fund;
- e. The purchase or use of credits from a mitigation bank, pursuant to § 62.1-44.15:23 of the Code of Virginia.

I. The certifications allowed by subsection H of this section may be provided only after the board has advertised and accepted public comment on its intent to provide certification for at least 30 days.

J. Coverage under a general, regional, or nationwide permit promulgated by the USACE and certified by the board in accordance with this section shall be deemed coverage under a VWP general permit regulation upon submission of proof of coverage under the general, regional, or nationwide permit and any other information required by the board through the certification process. Notwithstanding the provisions of 9VAC25-20-10, no fee shall be required from applicants seeking coverage under this subsection.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia; § 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 2.6, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007; Volume 24, Issue 9, eff. February 6, 2008; Volume 25, Issue 5, eff. December 10, 2008; Errata, 25:9 VA.R. 1826 January 5, 2009.

Part III

Public Involvement

9VAC25-210-140. Public notice of VWP permit applications, permit actions and public comment periods.

A. The initial application for surface water supply projects that requires both an individual Virginia Water Protection Permit and a Virginia Marine Resources permit under § 28.2-1205 of the Code of Virginia shall be advertised concurrently by the Department of Environmental

Quality and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. Such advertising shall be paid for by the applicant.

B. Every draft VWP permit, with the exception of an Emergency Virginia Water Protection Permit, shall be given public notice paid for by the applicant, by publication once in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the proposed activity. The public notice must be published within 14 days of the applicant's receipt of a draft VWP permit, or the 120-day VWP permit processing timeframe will be suspended until such publication.

C. The board shall provide a comment period of at least 30 days following the date of the public notice for interested persons to submit written comments on the tentative decision and to request a public hearing on the VWP permit. All written comments submitted during the comment period shall be retained by the board and considered during its final decision on the VWP permit.

D. The contents of the public notice for a VWP permit application or proposed VWP permit action shall include:

1. Name and mailing address of the applicant;
2. The permit application number;
3. Project location. If the location of the activity differs from the address of the applicant the notice shall also state the location in sufficient detail such that the specific location may be easily identified;
4. Brief description of the business or activity to be conducted at the site of the proposed activity;
5. Description of the area affected. Information on the number of acres of wetlands and/or the number of linear feet of streams affected, as well as the name of the receiving waterway and the name of the affected watershed should be included;
6. Description of what the applicant plans to do to compensate for the affected area;
7. A statement of the tentative determination to issue or deny a VWP permit;
8. A brief description of the final determination procedure;

9. The address, e-mail address and phone number of a specific person or persons at the state office from whom further information may be obtained; and

10. A brief description on how to submit comments and request a public hearing.

E. Public notice shall not be required for submission or approval of plans and specifications or conceptual engineering reports not required to be submitted as part of the application.

F. When a VWP permit is denied, the board will do so in accordance with 9VAC25-210-230.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 3.1, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007.

9VAC25-210-150. Public access to information.

All information pertaining to VWP permit processing or in reference to any activity requiring a VWP permit under this chapter shall be available to the public, unless the applicant has made a showing that the information is protected by the applicant as a trade secret covered by § 62.1-44.21 of the Code of Virginia. All information claimed confidential must be identified as such at the time of submission to the board and VMRC.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 3.2, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001.

9VAC25-210-160. Public comments and hearing.

A. The board shall consider all written comments and requests for a public hearing received during the comment period, and shall make a determination on the necessity of a public hearing in accordance with Procedural Rule No. 1 (9VAC25-230-10 et seq.). All

proceedings, public hearings and decisions from it will be in accordance with Procedural Rule No. 1 (9VAC25-230-10 et seq.).

B. Should the board, in accordance with Procedural Rule No. 1 (9VAC25-230-10 et seq.), determine to dispense with the public hearing, it may grant the VWP permit, or, at its discretion, transmit the application or request, together with all written comments from it and relevant staff documents and staff recommendations, if any, to the board for its decision.

C. Any applicant or permittee aggrieved by an action of the board taken without a public hearing, or inaction of the board, may request in writing a hearing pursuant to Procedural Rule No. 1 (9VAC25-230-10 et seq.).

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 3.3, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001.

9VAC25-210-170. Public notice of hearing.

A. Public notice of any public hearing held pursuant to 9VAC25-210-160 shall be circulated as follows:

1. Notice shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or city where the activity is to occur; and
2. Notice of the public hearing shall be sent to all persons and government agencies that received a copy of the notice of VWP permit application and to those persons requesting a public hearing or having commented in response to the public notice.

B. Notice shall be effected pursuant to subdivisions A 1 and 2 of this section at least 30 days in advance of the public hearing.

C. The content of the public notice of any public hearing held pursuant to 9VAC25-210-160 shall include at least the following:

1. Name and mailing address of each person whose application will be considered at the public hearing and a brief description of the person's activities or operations including information on the number of acres of wetlands and/or the number of linear

feet of streams affected, a description of the nature of the withdrawal and the amount of the withdrawal; as well as the name of the receiving waterway and the name of the affected watershed;

2. The precise location of the proposed activity and the surface waters that will, or may, be affected including, where possible, reference to route numbers, road intersections, map coordinates or similar information;

3. Description of what the applicant plans to do to compensate for the affected area;

4. A brief reference to the public notice issued for the VWP permit application or permit action, including the permit application number and date of issuance, unless the public notice includes the public hearing notice;

5. Information regarding the time and location for the public hearing;

6. The purpose of the public hearing;

7. A concise statement of the relevant water quality, or fish and wildlife resource issues raised by the persons requesting the public hearing;

8. Contact person and the mailing address, e-mail address, name of the DEQ regional office and phone number of the DEQ office at which the interested persons may obtain further information or request a copy of the draft VWP permit prepared pursuant to 9VAC25-210-120; and

9. A brief reference to the rules and procedures to be followed at the public hearing.

D. Public notice of any public hearing held pursuant to 9VAC25-210-160 C shall be in accordance with Procedural Rule No. 1 (9VAC25-230).

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 3.1, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007.

Part IV

VWP Permit Variances; VWP Permit Modification, Revocation and Reissuance, Transfer, Termination and Denial

9VAC25-210-175. Variance from VWP permit conditions.

A. For public water supplies. The board may grant a temporary variance to any condition of a VWP permit for a public surface water supply withdrawal that supports a public water supply to address a public water supply emergency during a drought. A permittee requesting such variance must provide all information required in the application for an Emergency Virginia Water Protection Permit identified in 9VAC25-210-80 D.

B. For all other water supplies. The board may grant a temporary variance to any condition of a VWP permit for a surface water withdrawal during a drought. A permittee requesting such variance must affirmatively demonstrate;

1. Public health and safety interests are served by the issuance of such variance; and
2. All management actions consistent with existing permits have been exhausted.

C. As a condition of any variance granted, the permittee shall:

1. Modify operations or facilities to comply with existing VWP permit conditions as soon as practicable; or
2. Provide new information to the board that alternate permit conditions are appropriate and either apply for a new VWP permit or a modification to their existing VWP permit. The board shall review any such application consistent with other sections of this regulation.

D. In addition, the board may require the permittee to take any other appropriate action to minimize adverse impacts to other beneficial uses.

E. Any variances issued by the board shall be of the shortest duration necessary for the permittee to gain compliance with existing permit conditions, apply for a new VWP permit, or request modification of existing permit conditions.

F. Public notice of any variance issued by the board shall be given as required for draft permits in 9VAC25-210-140 B, C, and D. Such notice shall be given concurrently with the

issuance of any variance and the board may modify such variances based on public comment. Publication costs of all public notices shall be the responsibility of the permittee.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007.

9VAC25-210-180. Rules for modification, revocation and reissuance, transfer, and termination of VWP permits.

A. VWP permits shall be modified, revoked and reissued, transferred or terminated only as authorized by this section.

B. A VWP permit may be modified in whole or in part, revoked and reissued, transferred or terminated.

C. VWP permit modifications shall not be used to extend the term of a VWP permit beyond 15 years from the date of original issuance. If the permittee wishes to continue one or more activities regulated by the VWP permit after the expiration date of the VWP permit, regardless of pending changes to the permitted activities, the permittee must apply for and obtain a new VWP permit or comply with the provisions of 9VAC25-210-185.

D. Modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination may be initiated by the board, upon the request of the permittee, or upon the request by another person at the board's discretion under applicable laws or the provisions of subsections D through H of this section. A VWP permit may be modified, or revoked and reissued with permittee consent, when any of the following developments occur:

1. When additions or alterations have been made to the affected facility or activity that require the application of VWP permit conditions that differ from those of the existing VWP permit or are absent from it;
2. When new information becomes available about the operation or activity covered by the VWP permit that was not available at VWP permit issuance and would have justified the application of different VWP permit conditions at the time of VWP permit issuance;

3. When a change is made in the promulgated standards or regulations on which the VWP permit was based;
4. When it becomes necessary to change final dates in schedules due to circumstances over which the permittee has little or no control such as acts of God, materials shortages, etc. However, in no case may a compliance schedule be modified to extend beyond any applicable statutory deadline of the Act;
5. When changes occur that are subject to "reopener clauses" in the VWP permit; or
6. When the board determines that minimum instream flow levels resulting directly from the permittee's withdrawal of surface water are detrimental to the instream beneficial use, existing at the time of permit issuance, and the withdrawal of surface water should be subject to further net limitations or when an area is declared a surface water management area pursuant to §§ 62.1-242 through 62.1-253 of the Code of Virginia, during the term of the VWP permit.

E. A VWP permit shall be transferred only if the VWP permit has been modified to reflect the transfer, has been revoked and reissued to the new permittee, or has been automatically transferred. Any individual VWP permit shall be automatically transferred to a new permittee if:

1. The current permittee notifies the board within 30 days of the proposed transfer of the title to the facility or property;
2. The notice to the board includes a written agreement between the existing and proposed permittee containing a proposed date of transfer of VWP permit responsibility, coverage and liability to the new permittee, or that the existing permittee will retain such responsibility, coverage, or liability, including liability for compliance with the requirements of any enforcement activities related to the permitted activity;
3. The board does not within the 30-day time period notify the existing permittee and the new permittee of its intent to modify or revoke and reissue the VWP permit; and
4. The permit transferor and the permit transferee provide written notice to the board of the actual transfer date.

F. Upon request of the permittee, or upon board initiative with the consent of the permittee, minor modifications may be made in the VWP permit without following the public involvement procedures. For VWP permits, a minor modification may only:

1. Correct typographical errors;
2. Require monitoring and reporting by the permittee at a different frequency than required in the VWP permit, based on new information justifying the change in conditions;
3. Change an interim compliance date in a schedule of compliance to no more than 180 days from the original compliance date and provided it will not interfere with the final compliance date;
4. Allow for a change in ownership or operational control when the board determines that no other change in the VWP permit is necessary, provided that a written agreement containing a specific date for transfer of VWP permit responsibility, coverage and liability from the current to the new permittee has been submitted to the board;
5. Change project plans that do not result in an increase to permitted project impacts other than allowable by 9VAC25-210-180 F 8; 9VAC25-210-180 F 9; and 9VAC25-210-180 F 10;
6. Occur when facility expansion or production increases and modification will not cause significant change in the discharge of pollutants;
7. Delete VWP permit limitation or monitoring requirements for specific pollutants when the activities generating these pollutants are terminated;
8. Occur when subsequent to issuance of a VWP individual or general permit authorization, the permittee determines that additional permanent wetland or stream impacts are necessary, provided that the additional impacts are associated with the previously authorized activities in authorized locations within the same phase of development or within logical termini, the unavoidable cumulative increase in the acreage of wetland or open water impacts is not greater than one-quarter of an acre (0.25 acre or 10,890 square feet) and the unavoidable cumulative increase in stream impacts is less than 100 linear feet, and also provided that the additional permanent

impacts are fully mitigated at ratios not less than compensatory mitigation ratios for the original impacts. A modification is not required subsequent to issuance for additional temporary impacts to surface waters, provided DEQ is notified in writing regarding additional temporary impacts, and the area is restored to preexisting conditions;

9. Occur when, subsequent to issuance of a VWP individual or general permit authorization, the project results in less wetland or stream impacts. Compensation requirements may be modified in relation to the adjusted impacts at the request of the permittee, provided that the adjusted compensation meets the initial compensation goals. DEQ shall not be responsible for ensuring refunds for mitigation bank credit purchases, mitigation bank usage, or in-lieu fee fund contributions;

10. Occur when, subsequent to issuance of a VWP individual or general permit authorization, substitution of a specified, approved mitigation bank(s) with another specified, approved mitigation bank is necessary.

G. After notice and opportunity for a formal hearing pursuant to Procedural Rule No. 1 (9VAC25-230-100), a VWP permit can be terminated for cause. Reasons for termination for cause are as follows:

1. Noncompliance by the permittee with any condition of the VWP permit;
2. The permittee's failure in the application or during the VWP permit issuance process to disclose fully all relevant facts or the permittee's misrepresentation of any relevant facts at any time;
3. The permittee's violation of a special or judicial order;
4. A determination by the board that the permitted activity endangers human health or the environment and can be regulated to acceptable levels by VWP permit modification or termination;
5. A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of any activity controlled by the VWP permit; and
6. A determination that the permitted activity has ceased and that the compensatory mitigation for unavoidable adverse impacts has been successfully completed.

H. A VWP permit can be terminated by consent, as initiated by the permittee, when all permitted activities have been completed or if the authorized impacts will not occur. The permittee shall submit a request for termination by consent within 30 days of project completion or project cancellation. The director may accept this termination on behalf of the board. The permittee shall submit the following information:

1. Name, mailing address and telephone number;
2. Name and location of the activity;
3. The VWP permit authorization number; and
4. One of the following certifications:

a. For project completion: "I certify under penalty of law that all activities and any requested compensatory mitigation] authorized by a VWP permit have been completed. I understand that by submitting this notice of termination that I am no longer authorized to perform activities in surface waters in accordance with the VWP permit, and that performing activities in surface waters is unlawful where the activity is not authorized by a VWP permit. I also understand that the submittal of this notice does not release me from liability for any violations of this VWP permit ."

b. For project cancellation: "I certify under penalty of law that the activities and any required compensatory mitigation] authorized by this VWP permit will not occur. I understand that by submitting this notice of termination, that I am no longer authorized to perform activities in surface waters in accordance with the VWP permit, and that performing activities in surface waters is unlawful where the activity is not authorized by a VWP permit. I also understand that the submittal of this notice does not release me from liability for any violations of this VWP [] permit , nor does it allow me to resume the permitted activities without reapplication and issuance of another permit."

c. For events beyond permittee control, the permittee shall provide a detailed explanation of the events, to be approved by DEQ, and the following certification statement: "I certify under penalty of law that the activities or the required compensatory mitigation authorized by a VWP permit have changed as the result

of events beyond my control (see attached). I understand that by submitting this notice of termination I am no longer authorized to perform activities in surface waters in accordance with the VWP permit, and that performing activities in surface waters is unlawful where the activity is not authorized by a VWP permit. I also understand that the submittal of this notice does not release me from liability for any violations of this VWP permit, nor does it allow me to resume the permitted activities without reapplication and issuance of another permit.

I. If a permittee files a request for VWP permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or files a notice of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance, the VWP permit terms and conditions shall remain effective until the request is acted upon by the board.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 4.1, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007.

9VAC25-210-185. Duration of VWP permits; extensions.

A. Duration of VWP permits. VWP permits issued under this chapter shall have an effective date and expiration date that will determine the life of the permit. VWP permits shall be effective for a fixed term based upon the projected duration of the project, the length of any required monitoring, or other project operations or VWP permit conditions; however, the term shall not exceed 15 years and will be specified in the conditions of the VWP permit. Emergency Virginia Water Protection Permits shall not exceed a duration of one year or shall expire upon the issuance of a regular Virginia Water Protection Permit, whichever comes first.

B. VWP permit extension. Any permittee with an effective VWP permit for an activity that is expected to continue after the expiration date of the VWP permit, without any change in the activity authorized by the VWP permit, shall submit written notification requesting an extension. The permittee must file the request prior to the expiration date of the VWP permit. Under no circumstances will the original and the extended permit terms together

exceed a total of 15 years . If the request for extension is denied, the VWP permit will expire on its original date and, therefore, the permittee should allow sufficient time for the board to evaluate the extension request and, in the case of denial of the request, to process a new VWP permit application or an application for a VWP permit modification, if applicable.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; amended, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007.

9VAC25-210-190. (Repealed.)

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 4.2, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; repealed, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 27, 2007.

9VAC25-210-200. (Repealed.)

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 4.3, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; repealed, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007.

9VAC25-210-210. (Repealed.)

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 4.4, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; repealed, Virginia Register Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007.

9VAC25-210-220. Waiver of VWP permit or § 401 certification.

A. The board may waive permitting requirements when the board determines that a proposed project impacts an isolated wetland that is of minimal ecological value as defined in 9VAC25-210-10. Any person claiming this waiver bears the burden to demonstrate that he qualifies for the waiver.

B. The board may waive the requirement for a VWP individual permit when the proposed activity qualifies for a permit issued by the USACE and receives a permit from the VMRC or wetlands boards, pursuant to Chapter 12 (§ 28.2-1200 et seq.) or Chapter 13 (§ 28.2-1300 et seq.) of Title 28.2 of the Code of Virginia, and the activity does not impact instream flows.

C. The board shall waive the requirement for a VWP general permit authorization or VWP individual permit when the proposed activity meets the exclusion set forth in 9VAC25-210-60 A 10 a regardless of the issuance of an individual permit by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 4.5, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007; Volume 25, Issue 5, eff. December 10, 2008.

9VAC25-210-230. Denial of the VWP permit or variance request.

A. The board shall make a decision to tentatively deny the VWP permit or variance request if the requirements of this chapter are not met. Basis for denial include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The project will result in violations of water quality standards or will impair the beneficial uses of state waters.
2. As a result of project implementation, shellfish waters would be condemned in accordance with 9VAC25-260.
3. The project that the applicant proposed fails to adequately avoid and minimize impacts to state waters to the maximum extent practicable.
4. The proposed compensatory mitigation plan is insufficient or unsatisfactory for the proposed impacts and fails to achieve no net loss of existing wetland acreage and function and no net loss of functions in all surface waters.
5. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries indicates that natural or stockable trout waters would be permanently and negatively impacted by the proposed activity.

6. The proposed activity is prohibited by 9VAC25-210-50.

7. The effect of project impacts, together with other existing or proposed impacts to wetlands, will cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state waters or fish and wildlife resources.

8. Failure to submit the required permit fee in accordance with 9VAC25-210-80 B 1 n, C 9 or D 1 g.

9. The board determines that the applicant for an Emergency Virginia Water Protection Permit has not demonstrated that there is a substantial threat to public health and safety, and that normal Virginia Water Protection Permit procedures, including public comment provisions, should be followed.

B. The applicant shall be notified by letter of the board's preliminary decision to tentatively deny the VWP permit requested.

C. Should the applicant withdraw his application, no VWP permit or variance will be issued.

D. Should the applicant elect to proceed as originally proposed, the board may deny the application and advise the applicant pursuant to Procedural Rule No. 1 - Public and Formal Hearing Procedures (9VAC25-230) of his right to a public hearing to consider the denial.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 4.6, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007.

Part V

Enforcement

9VAC25-210-240. Enforcement.

The board may enforce the provisions of this chapter utilizing all applicable procedures under the law and § 10.1-1186 of the Code of Virginia.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 5.1, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21.

Part VI

Miscellaneous

9VAC25-210-250. Delegation of authority.

The director, or a designee acting for him, may perform any act of the board provided under this chapter, except as limited by § 62.1-44.14 of the Code of Virginia.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 6.1, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21.

9VAC25-210-260. Transition.

A. All applications received on or after July 25, 2007, will be processed in accordance with these new procedures.

B. VWP individual permits issued prior to July 25, 2007, will remain in full force and effect until such permits expire, are revoked, or are terminated.

C. Modifications and all other types of modification that are received by the board prior to July 25, 2007, will be processed in accordance with the VWP permit regulations in effect at that time. Modifications and all other types of notification to the board that are received on or after July 25, 2007, will be processed in accordance with these new procedures.

D. Section 401 Water Quality Certificates issued prior to December 31, 1989, have the same effect as a VWP permit. Water Quality Certificates issued after this date will remain in effect until reissued as Virginia Water Protection Permits.

Statutory Authority

§ 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from VR680-15-02 § 6.2, eff. May 20, 1992; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2001; Volume 23, Issue 21, eff. July 25, 2007.

FORMS (9VAC25-210)

Permit Application Fee Form (eff. 7/04).

Standard Joint Permit Application for Activities in Waters and Wetlands of the Commonwealth of Virginia (eff. 07/08).

Joint Permit Application for Projects in Tidewater Virginia (eff. 10/04).

Virginia Department of Transportation, Joint Permit Application, IACM Coordination Form (eff. 6/08).

Monthly Reporting of Impacts Less than One-Tenth Acre Statewide (eff. 8/07).

DEQ Application for New or Expanded Minor Surface Water Withdrawals Initiated On or After July 25, 2007.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (9VAC25-210)

Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, First Edition, 1999, Volume I, Chapter 3, Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-87-1, January 1987, Final Report.

Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality in Virginia Technical Guide, Fourth Edition, 2002, Department of Forestry.

Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual, Revised June 2000, Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, Third Edition, 1992, Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Guideline for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material, 40 CFR Part 230 (Federal Register December 24, 1980).

Potomac River Low Flow Allocation Agreement, January 11, 1978, § 181 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1976, Public Law 94-587, as modified on April 22, 1986.

Water Supply Coordination Agreement, July 22, 1982, an attachment to the Drought-Related Operations Manual for the Washington Metropolitan Area Water Suppliers.

