

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Notice of Public Meeting and Public Comment for Several
Total Maximum Daily Load Studies in Waters in Accomack County

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will host a public meeting on water quality studies for Gargathy Creek, Finney Creek, Northam Creek, UT to Pitts Creek, Folly Creek, Ross Branch and Wachapreague Channel; all located in Accomack County on **Wednesday July 18, 2012**.

The meeting will start at **6:30 p.m.** at the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) located at 23372 Front St, Accomac, VA 23301. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information on the final TMDL reports and discuss the study with community members and local government.

Gargathy Creek (benthic, E.coli, DO), Finney Creek (enterococci), Northam Creek (DO), UT Pitts Creek (E.coli, pH), Folly Creek (DO, benthic), Ross Branch (benthic), and Wachapreague Channel (enterococci), were identified in Virginia's 2010 Water Quality Assessment & Integrated Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for recreation bacteria, dissolved oxygen, and benthic integrity and do not support the Designated Uses.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report and subsequent Water Quality Assessment Reports.

As a result of the studies, DEQ has developed a Total Maximum Daily Load for each of the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, pollutant levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount. The Virginia Departments of Environmental Quality, Conservation and Recreation, and Health are working to identify the sources of pollution in the watersheds of these streams.

The public comment period on materials presented at this meeting will extend from July 19, 2012 to August 17, 2012. For additional information or to submit comments, contact Jennifer Howell, in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach VA 23462, by phone (757) 518-2111 or by e-mail jennifer.howell@deq.virginia.gov.

Additional information is also available on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.