

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Notice of Public Meeting and Public Comment for an Implementation Plan in Hoffler Creek; Cities of Suffolk and Portsmouth

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will host a public meeting on a water quality study for Hoffler Creek, located in the Cities of Suffolk and Portsmouth, on **Monday May 14, 2012**.

The meeting will start at **6:30 p.m.** in the **Northern Shores Elementary School** located at 6701 Respass Beach Road, Suffolk. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and discuss the study with interested local community members and local government.

Hoffler Creek (VAT-G15E_HOF01A06) was identified in Virginia's Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report as impaired for not supporting the Primary Contact Use. The impairment is based on water quality monitoring data reports of sufficient exceedances of Virginia's water quality standard for bacteria.

The meeting will review the final Implementation Plan for the impaired water. The Implementation Plan (IP) is developed to provide a clean up plan that will lead to attainment of the water quality standards. Public participation and stakeholder involvement are necessary in order to develop an effective and reasonable IP. This meeting will present the findings of the TMDL study and the necessary steps in the IP development.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report and subsequent Water Quality Assessment Reports. 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 TMDL report has been approved by EPA (Dec 14, 2011) and can be found at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/apptmdls/jamesrvr/hofflerec.pdf>.

The public comment period on materials presented at this meeting will extend from May 15, 2012 to June 13, 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.