

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

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will host a public meeting on water quality studies for Red Bank Creek and a portion of Machipongo River; located in Northampton and Accomack Counties on **Thursday December 13, 2012**.

The meeting will start at **6:30 p.m.** at the Northampton Free Library located at 7745 Seaside Rd, Nassawadox VA 23413. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and discuss the study with community members and local government.

Red Bank Creek (Enterococci, E.coli, Fecal coliform, Dissolved Oxygen), and Machipongo River (Enterococci), were identified in Virginia's 2010 Water Quality Assessment & Integrated Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standards for recreation bacteria, dissolved oxygen, and shellfish consumption bacteria and do not support the Designated Uses. The Red Bank Creek watershed includes both riverine and tidal portions of the Creek. The Machipongo River watershed only includes the area of the stream covered from the end of tidal waters downstream to 0.5 mile south of Rt 182.

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.

During the study, DEQ will develop a Total Maximum Daily Load for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, 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 December 14, 2012 to January 14, 2013. 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](mailto:jennifer.howell@deq.virginia.gov).

Additional information is also available on the DEQ web site at [www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl).