

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plans (IPs) for the North Fork Rockfish River, South Fork Rockfish River, Rockfish River and Taylor Creek watersheds in Nelson County. The tributaries of the Rockfish were listed on the 2004 and 2006 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for bacteria; in addition, Taylor Creek was listed in 2008 as impaired due to violations of the State's general water quality standard (benthic) for aquatic life. The bacteria impairment on the North Fork Rockfish begins in the headwaters and extends 7.2 miles to its confluence with the Rockfish River. The South Fork Rockfish bacterial impairment extends 11.6 miles from its headwaters to its confluence with the mainstem Rockfish River. The bacteria impairment on the Rockfish River extends from the confluence of its North and South Forks to its confluence with Davis Creek, which is a total of 6.5 miles. The benthic impairment on Taylor's Creek extends 5 miles from its headwaters to the confluence with North Fork Perry Creek.

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. In addition, Section 62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia requires the development of an IP for approved TMDLs. The IP should provide measurable goals and the date of expected achievement of water quality objectives. The IP should also include the corrective actions needed and their associated costs, benefits, and environmental impacts.

The third public meeting on the development of these TMDLs and IPs will be held at the Rockfish River Elementary School, 200 Chapel Hollow Rd., Afton, VA 22920, on

Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 7:00 p.m. The Implementation Plan document will be available on the DEQ website the day of the meeting for public comment and review: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/DraftTMDLReports.aspx>

The public comment period for the Implementation Plan will end on June 18, 2012. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Tara Sieber, Department of Environmental Quality, 4411 Early Road, PO Box 3000, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, telephone (540) 574-7870, fax (540) 574-7878, or e-mail tara.sieber@deq.virginia.gov.