

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 Poquoson River and Back River, along with several tributaries; located in the Cities of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, and York County on **Monday March 18, 2013**.

The meeting will start at **6:00 p.m.** at the Sandy Bottom Nature Park Conference Room located at 1255 Big Bethel Road, Hampton VA 23666. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and discuss the study with community members and local government.

Poquoson River, Hodges Creek, Lyons Creek, Floyds Bay, Cabin Creek, Roberts Creek, White House Creek, Bennett Creek, Easton Creek, Patricks Creek, Back Creek, Lower Chisman Creek, and Lambs Creek 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 and shellfish consumption bacteria (Enterococci and Fecal coliform) and do not support the Designated Uses.

The Back River watershed includes the Northwest and Southwest Branches, Brick Kiln Creek, Newmarket Creek, Front Cove, Cedar Creek, Harris Creek, Long and Grunland Creeks, Tabbs Creek, Topping Creek, and Wallace Creek. These waterbodies were also 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 and shellfish consumption bacteria (Enterococci and Fecal coliform) 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.

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 March 19, 2013 to April 17, 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.

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