

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow continuation of an existing surface water diversion for hydroelectric power generation from the New River in Grayson County, Virginia

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: For 30 days, starting from the day after the notice is in the newspaper: **May 17, 2019** to **June 17, 2019** at 5:00 p.m.

PERMIT NAME: Virginia Water Protection Permit issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Aquenergy Systems LLC, 100 Brickstone Square, Suite 300, Andover, MA; VWPP No. **18-0986**.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Aquenergy Systems LLC has applied for a Virginia Water Protection (VWP) Permit for the Fries Hydroelectric Project. The application requested authorization of an existing surface water diversion at the Fries Dam, located on the New River in Grayson County, Virginia. Aquenergy Systems LLC produces hydroelectric power from a diversion of water from the New River. No impacts to surface waters are proposed. The continued diversion affects the New River in the Upper New River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. DEQ's preliminary decision to issue the permit.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: **Joseph Grist**; VA Dept. of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, VA 23218; Phone: **804-698-4031**; E-mail: Joseph.Grist@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: 804-698-4032. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above (by appointment) or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.