

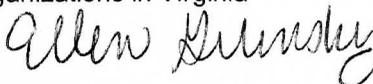
**MEMORANDUM**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
**DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS**

**ELLEN GILINSKY, Ph.D.**  
**DIRECTOR**

**P.O.BOX 1105**

**Richmond, VA 23218**

To: Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Organizations in Virginia  
From: Ellen Gilinsky, Ph.D., Director  
Date: June 12, 2007



Re: Use of Your Data by DEQ

This memo is to let you know that the DEQ Citizen Monitoring Grant Request for Proposals for the 2008 awards will be released soon (by July 1<sup>st</sup>). Because of our continued commitment to support citizen monitoring, DEQ is expanding grant eligibility in the coming year to be more inclusive of the various activities conducted by citizen monitoring groups.

We also want to take this opportunity to clarify the ways in which DEQ would like to make use of citizen collected monitoring information. Both citizen and other non-DEQ water monitoring data may be used by DEQ in these five principal ways:

- 1) List and delist impaired waters on the 303(d) List – Level III
- 2) Source identification for TMDL development for waters already listed as impaired - Level III
- 3) Track progress towards the restoration of waters which have an approved TMDL and may also have a TMDL Implementation Plan – Level II or III
- 4) Target waters for future DEQ monitoring – Level II or III
- 5) Educate land owners on the water quality impacts of land use activities – Level I, II, or III

All of the data uses listed above will be eligible for funding through the Citizen Monitoring Grant Program. We will also continue awarding mini-grants in 2008 for newer citizen monitoring organizations.

As we move into this next year of grant awards, we are requesting information on how your group would like DEQ to use the data you are generating. You may choose any combination of the uses listed above (by number please), provided that your data qualifies for that use in terms of type of data collected and your quality assurance protocols. For example, any group that qualifies for Level III can choose all or any of the five choices above, while a Level II group can choose all or any from # 3 – 5. We will use this information to ensure that your group's data will be used for the purposes that your group intended. Please be aware, that DEQ cannot use part of a dataset from any group (e.g. to delist 303(d) Impaired Waters) then exclude the remainder (to list 303(d) Waters). We must either use all of the eligible data you generate, or none of it, for the use(s) above to which you consent.

Please fill out and return the attached form (one per group please) at your earliest convenience and let us know how you would like DEQ to use data which you are generating. Your decision will affect the 2008 305(b)/303(d) Report which will be released in less than one year.

DEQ hopes to discuss and explain our use of citizen generated data in more detail at the Citizen Summit at the University of Virginia in July. If you have any immediate questions regarding the attached form or what Quality Assurance Level (I, II, or III) your group is currently eligible for, please call James Beckley, our Water Quality Data Liaison, at (804) 698-4025 or E-mail him at [jebeckley@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:jebeckley@deq.virginia.gov).

Thanks for your continued interest in the quality of Virginia's waters.

Attachment: