

Issue Analysis Form

Date: August 11, 2020

Item: Issuance of VPDES Permit for WWTP

Lead Department: Engineering & Utilities

Contact Persons: Frank Haltom, Director



Description and Current Status

In October 2019, the County submitted an application to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for a Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit to discharge treated wastewater into the Blackwater Swamp. The application requested an initial discharge volume of 2 MGD with consideration of future growth to allow volumes of 4 MGD and 6 MGD.

On June 10, DEQ issued a Public Notice to receive public comments. The 30-day comment period ended on July 13. DEQ chose not hold a public hearing to address citizen comments, but will respond directly to each individual or party that submitted comments. A copy of the Public Notice is attached.

On August 3, DEQ issued the VPDES permit to the County. The permit sets the limits of known contaminants in treated wastewater that will discharge into the swamp. The permit also defines the monitoring and reporting requirements to demonstrate the treatment plant is operating within these limits. A copy of the permit is attached. This permit specifically defines effluent limits for total suspended solids (TSS), biological oxygen demand (cBOD5), and total nitrogen (Ammonia-N).

The quantification levels shall be less than or equal to the following concentrations:

<u>Effluent Characteristic</u>	<u>Quantification Level</u>
cBOD5	2.0 mg/L
Total Suspended Solids	1.0 mg/L
Ammonia-N	0.20 mg/L

The permit gives the County assurance that the regulating agencies would approve the discharge of the treated wastewater into the Blackwater Swamp should the Board decide a treatment plant is the best option to address the current and future wastewater capacity needs of the County.

The Government Path

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| Does this require IDA action? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does this require BZA action? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does this require Planning Commission action? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does this require Board of Supervisors action? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

Board Action Requested:

Staff requests guidance on next steps, which could include a public meeting to allow staff to respond to citizens' questions and concerns, and/or authorizing a preliminary engineering report to begin conceptual design options and cost estimates for a wastewater treatment plant. As previously presented, other options include a new pipeline to the Hopewell treatment plant or improvements to the existing infrastructure to continue conveying wastewater to South Central Wastewater Authority.

Fiscal Impact Statement

A preliminary engineering report for a new pipeline to Hopewell or a wastewater treatment plant could cost up to \$150,000.

Prince George County Impact

None

Notes

None

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the release of treated wastewater into a water body in Prince George County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: June 10, 2020 to July 13, 2020

PERMIT NAME: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – Wastewater issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Prince George County, 6602 Courts Drive, Prince George, VA 23875, VA0093068

FACILITY NAME AND LOCATION: Prince George Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP); Prince George Drive, Prince George, VA 23875

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Prince George County has applied for a new permit for the public Prince George WWTP. The applicant proposes to release treated sewage wastewaters from residential areas and treated industrial wastewaters at a rate of 2,000,000 gallons per day into a water body. The applicant has also proposed future expansion of the discharge to 4,000,000 or 6,000,000 gallons per day. Sludge from the treatment process will be hauled to the Shoosmith Sanitary Landfill. The facility proposes to release the treated sewage and treated industrial wastewaters in the Blackwater Swamp in Prince George in the Chowan River and Dismal Swamp watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: organic matter, bacteria, and solids.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing hand-delivery, 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: Joy Abel; Piedmont Regional Office, 4949 A Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060; Phone: (804) 527-5197; E-mail: joy.abel@deq.virginia.gov; 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.