

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft major modification from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow fill in streams and wetlands in Frederick County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: For 30 days, starting from the day after the notice is in the newspaper: February 6, 2015

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

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: MREC Shenandoah VA, LLC; 2553 Dulles View Drive, Herndon, VA 20171; VWPP No. 05-1951

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: MREC Shenandoah VA, LLC has applied for a permit modification for the Shenandoah Subdivision project. The project entrance is located southwest of the intersection of Route 277 and Route 340/522, south of Stephens City. The permit modification will allow the applicant to excavate and fill in surface waters. The proposed modification would allow for the permanent impact of an additional 0.01 acre of palustrine, emergent (PEM) wetland, 0.05 acre of conversion from palustrine forested wetland (PFO) to PEM, and 1,572 linear feet of stream channel, and the temporary impact of an additional 15 linear feet of stream channel. The total cumulative project impacts would include permanent impacts to 0.22 acre of PEM wetland, 0.05 acre of conversion from PFO to PEM wetlands, and 3,049 linear feet of stream channel, and temporary impacts to 326 linear feet of stream channel. The activity proposed in the permit will affect streams and wetlands associated with unnamed tributaries of Lake Frederick and unnamed tributaries to Crooked Run in the Crooked Run-Molly Camel Run watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. To compensate for the additional impacts, the applicant would purchase 0.06 wetland credits and 1,743 stream credits at a DEQ approved mitigation bank that is authorized to sell credits to the project area. DEQ's preliminary decision is to issue the permit modification.

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: Eric Millard; Valley Regional Office, PO Box 3000, Harrisonburg, VA 22801; Phone: (540) 574-7813; E-mail: eric.millard@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: (540) 574-7878. 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.