

GUIDANCE FOR CITIZEN NOMINATION OF STATE SURFACE WATERS FOR INCLUSION IN VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY'S ANNUAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING PLAN. IN ACCORDANCE WITH §62.1-44.19:5.F OF THE *CODE OF VIRGINIA*, WATER QUALITY MONITORING INFORMATION AND RESTORATION ACT.

PURPOSE OF GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

This document provides detailed guidance on implementation of §62.1-44.19:5.F, the section of the Water Quality Monitoring, Information and Restoration Act that provides for requests from the public regarding specific segments that should be included in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) annual Water Quality Monitoring Plan.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTACT

Questions concerning this document should be addressed to Ms. Joyce Brooks, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 10009, Richmond, Virginia 23240-0009 at jfbrooks@deq.state.va.us or (804) 698-4026 (the DEQ in-state toll free number 800-592-5482). The street address is 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

BACKGROUND ON THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

During the 1997 legislative session, the General Assembly enacted the Water Quality Monitoring, Information and Restoration Act (the Act). The Act directs DEQ to provide a procedure for citizens of the Commonwealth to nominate portions of lakes, streams, and rivers of Virginia for water quality monitoring by DEQ. Citizens can send their nominations to DEQ via the procedures described below. Nominations received by December 31st of each calendar year will be considered for inclusion in DEQ's annual monitoring plan for the following state fiscal year (July 1-June 30). The monitoring plan will be finalized on April 30th of each year. After considering the citizen's nominations for inclusion in the annual monitoring plan, DEQ will respond to each request in writing, stating the reasons for accepting or denying each nomination. DEQ's response is due by April 30th of each year for nominations received between October 1st and December 31st of the preceding year.

PROCESS TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL MONITORING

Any person may request that a specific body of water be included in DEQ's annual water quality monitoring plan. Each request received between October 1st and December 31st shall be reviewed when DEQ develops or updates the annual water quality monitoring plan. Such requests shall include, at a minimum (i) a geographical description of the water body recommended for monitoring; (ii) the reason the monitoring is requested, and (iii) any water quality data that the petitioner may have collected or compiled. Please see the nominating form at Attachment 1.

Please note that the monitoring program covered by this process is directed at the surface waters of the state. Private ponds, privately owned lakes and any other body of water not deemed to be "State Waters" are ineligible.

Nominations can be submitted by mail, fax, email or hand delivered to the receptionist's desk at our Central Office at 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia.

Mailing Address:

Ms. Joyce Brooks
VA Dept. of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 10009
Richmond, VA 23240-0009

Street Address (FedEx):

Ms. Joyce Brooks
VA Dept of Environmental Quality
629 E. Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

FAX: Attention Joyce Brooks
VA Dept of Environmental Quality
804-698-4116

E- MAIL: jfbrooks@deq.state.va.us

Use of the nomination form shown in Attachment 1 is preferred. All nominations with the minimum of information as outlined above will be accepted for review.

TIMELINE

Nominations received between October 1st and December 31st of each calendar year will be considered for inclusion in DEQ'S Water Quality Monitoring Plan for the upcoming state fiscal year. DEQ will respond in writing on its approval or denial of each nomination by April 30th. The DEQ annual monitoring plan will be made available for public inspection. A notice of availability of the annual monitoring plan will be placed on DEQ's web site at <http://www.deq.state.va.us>.

ATTACHMENT 1

REQUEST TO INCLUDE A WATER SEGMENT IN DEQ'S ANNUAL MONITORING PLAN

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail address: _____

Telephone: home: _____ business: _____ fax: _____

Geographic description of the waterbody:

(1) Name of the waterbody or segment proposed for monitoring:

(2) Description of the upstream and downstream boundaries of the waterbody proposed for monitoring. Attach a map (preferably a photocopy of a 7.5 minute quad USGS topographic map which may be obtained through <http://topozone.com>) which delineates the boundaries:

(3) Reason for requesting that this waterbody be monitored:

(4) Attach any water quality data that you have collected or compiled. Include the name of the organization/entity that generated the data.

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