



Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) Agency Background Document

Agency name	State Water Control Board
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation	9VAC25-860
Regulation title	General VPDES Permit for Potable Water Treatment Plants
Action title	Amend and Reissue Existing Regulation
Date this document prepared	March 1, 2012

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Orders 14 (2010) and 58 (1999), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*.

Purpose

Please describe the subject matter and intent of the planned regulatory action. Also include a brief explanation of the need for and the goals of the new or amended regulation.

The purpose of the proposed action is to establish appropriate and necessary permitting requirements for discharges of wastewater from potable water treatment plants. The proposed regulation will set forth standard language for effluent limitations and monitoring requirements necessary to regulate this category of dischargers.

Legal basis

Please identify the state and/or federal legal authority to promulgate this proposed regulation, including (1) the most relevant law and/or regulation, including Code of Virginia citation and General Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable, and (2) promulgating entity, i.e., agency, board, or person. Describe the legal authority and the extent to which the authority is mandatory or discretionary.

The basis for this regulation is § 62.1-44.2 et seq. of the Code of Virginia. Specifically, § 62.1-44.15(5) authorizes the Board to issue permits for the discharge of treated sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes into or adjacent to state waters. Further, § 62.1-44.15(10) authorizes the Board to adopt such regulations as it deems necessary to enforce the general water quality management § 62.1-44.15 (14) authorizes the Board to establish requirements for the treatment of sewage, industrial wastes and other wastes.

Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1251 et seq.) authorizes states to administer the NPDES permit program under state law. The Commonwealth of Virginia received such authorization in 1975 under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. EPA. This Memorandum of Understanding was modified on May 20, 1991 to authorize the Commonwealth to administer a General VPDES Permit Program.

Need

Please detail the specific reasons why the agency has determined that the proposed regulatory action is essential to protect the health, safety, or welfare of citizens. In addition, delineate any potential issues that may need to be addressed as the regulation is developed.

This proposed regulatory action is needed in order to establish appropriate and necessary permitting requirements for discharges of wastewater from potable water treatment plants. These discharges are considered to be point sources of pollutants and thus are subject to regulation under the VPDES permit program. The primary issue that needs to be addressed is that the existing general permit expires on December 23, 2013 and must be reissued in order to continue making it available after that date. Other issues that need consideration are: if authorization to discharge should be granted when a potable water treatment plant discharges to impaired waters (e.g. waters with total maximum daily loads) or high quality or exceptional waters (e.g. per antidegradation requirements in 9VAC25-260-30). Another issue to consider is the need for whole effluent toxicity screening before authorization to discharge can be granted. The regulation will be reviewed for clarity based on questions raised during the implementation of the 2008 permit and if any additional conditions or other revisions are needed to make the potable water treatment plant general permit consistent with other types of general permits reissued since 2008.

Substance

Please detail any changes that will be proposed. For new regulations, include a summary of the proposed regulatory action. Where provisions of an existing regulation are being amended, explain how the existing regulation will be changed.

No specific changes to the existing general permit regulation have been identified at this time. Amendments may be identified following the submittal of public comments on this notice, by the technical advisory committee during deliberations of this general permit regulation or as the issues identified in "Need" are considered.

Alternatives

Please describe all viable alternatives to the proposed regulatory action that have been or will be considered to meet the essential purpose of the action. Also, please describe the process by which the agency has considered or will consider other alternatives for achieving the need in the most cost-effective manner.

There are two alternatives for compliance with federal and state requirements to permit discharges from potable water treatment plants. One alternative, currently used for some potable water treatment plants, is to issue individual VPDES permits to each establishment. The other is to issue the general VPDES

permit to cover this category of discharger. The reissuance of the general VPDES permit will reduce costs to the permittee and simplify the application process.

Public participation

Please indicate the agency is seeking comments on the intended regulatory action, to include ideas to assist the agency in the development of the proposal and the costs and benefits of the alternatives stated in this notice or other alternatives. Also, indicate whether a public hearing is to be held to receive comments on this notice.

The agency is seeking comments on the intended regulatory action, including but not limited to 1) ideas to assist in the development of a proposal, 2) the costs and benefits of the alternatives stated in this background document or other alternatives, 3) potential impacts of the regulation and 4) impacts of the regulation on farm and forest land preservation. The agency is also seeking information on impacts on small businesses as defined in § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia. Information may include 1) projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative costs, 2) probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses, and 3) description of less intrusive or costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments may do so by mail, email or fax to Eleanore Daub, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Va. 23218, telephone 804/698-4111, fax 804/698-4032, email eleonore.daub@deq.virginia.gov. Comments may also be submitted through the Public Forum feature of the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall web site at: www.townhall.virginia.gov. Written comments must include the name and address of the commenter. In order to be considered comments must be received by DEQ by the close of the public comment period.

Public Hearing at Proposed Stage

A public hearing will be held after publication of the proposed stage of the regulatory action.

Technical Advisory Committee

A technical advisory committee will be involved in the development of the proposed regulation.

The Board is using a technical advisory committee to develop a proposal. Persons interested in assisting in the development of a proposal should notify the department contact person by the end of the comment period and provide their name, address, phone number, email address and the organization you represent (if any). The primary function of the advisory committee is to develop recommended regulation amendments for Department consideration through the collaborative approach of regulatory negotiation and consensus. Multi-applications from a single company, organization, group or other entity count as one for purposes of making the decision specified in the preceding sentence. Notification of the composition of the advisory committee will be sent to all applicants.

Family impact

Assess the potential impact of the proposed regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability including to what extent the regulatory action will: 1) strengthen or erode the authority and rights of parents in the education, nurturing, and supervision of their children; 2) encourage or discourage economic self-sufficiency, self-pride, and the assumption of responsibility for oneself, one's spouse, and one's children and/or elderly parents; 3) strengthen or erode the marital commitment; and 4) increase or decrease disposable family income.

This regulation will have no direct impact on the institution of the family or family stability.