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Periodic Review and Small Business Impact Findings Where Result is "Retain the Regulation As Is"

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| Agency name | Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System Professionals |
| Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation | 18 VAC 160-11 |
| Regulation title | Public Participation Guidelines |
| Date | February 5, 2016 |

This information is required pursuant to Executive Order 17 (2014).

Legal basis

Please identify the state and/or federal legal authority for the regulation, including: 1) the most relevant law and/or regulation; and 2) promulgating entity, i.e., agency, board, or person.

Section 2.2-4007.02 of the *Code of Virginia* gives authority to each agency pursuant to the provisions of this chapter (*Code of Virginia, Title 2.2*), which includes the Director of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (Department), to promote public involvement in the development, amendment, or repeal of any agency's regulations by soliciting the input of interested parties. This is done through the adoption of Public Participation Guidelines and the use of these guidelines in the development of the Board's regulations.

Alternatives

Please describe all viable alternatives for achieving the purpose of the existing regulation that have been considered as part of the periodic review process. Include an explanation of why such alternatives were rejected and why this regulation is the least burdensome alternative available for achieving the purpose of the regulation.

No viable alternatives for achieving the purpose of the existing regulation could be determined. The statute enables the Board to fulfill the requirement established in Title 2.2 of the *Code of Virginia*. Further, the regulation is necessary to ensure that the Board’s statutory requirements are executed in the least burdensome and most efficient and cost effective manner possible while protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Virginia.

Public comment

Please summarize all comments received during the public comment period following the publication of the Notice of Periodic Review, and provide the agency response. Please indicate if an informal advisory group was formed for purposes of assisting in the periodic review.

No comments were received during the public comment period following publication of the Notice of Periodic Review. An informal advisory group was not formed for purposes of assisting in the periodic review.

Effectiveness

Please indicate whether the regulation meets the criteria set out in Executive Order 17 (2014), e.g., is necessary for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, and is clearly written and easily understandable.

The regulation meets the criteria set forth in Executive Order 17 (2014). The regulation establishes the Public Participation Guidelines which are used by the Board to promote public involvement in the development, amendment, or repeal of the agency’s regulations by soliciting the input of interested parties. The regulation is clearly written and understandable.

Result

Please state that the reason why the agency is recommending that the regulation should stay in effect without change.

The agency is recommending that the regulation stay in effect without change.

Small business impact

In order to minimize the economic impact of regulations on small business, please include, pursuant to § 2.2-4007.1 E and F, a discussion of the agency’s consideration of: 1) the continued need for the regulation; 2) the nature of complaints or comments received concerning the regulation from the public; 3) the complexity of the regulation; 4) the extent to which the regulation overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with federal or state law or regulation; and 5) the length of time since the regulation has been evaluated or the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors have changed in the area affected by the regulation. Also, include a discussion of the basis for the agency’s determination to retain the regulation as is, consistent with the stated objectives of applicable law, to minimize the economic impact of regulations on small businesses.

Code of Virginia § 2.2-4007.02 mandates the agency to solicit the input of interested parties in the formation and development of its regulations. Therefore, the continued need for the regulation is established in statute. The regulation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare by establishing Public Participation Guidelines which promote public involvement in the development, amendment, or repeal of an agency's regulation. By soliciting the input of interested parties, the agency is better equipped to effectively regulate the occupation or profession. Since no complaints or comments were received during the public comment period, there does not appear to be a reason to amend or repeal the regulation. The regulation is clearly written and easily understandable. The regulation does not overlap, duplicate, or contravene federal or state law or regulation. A periodic review was completed on January 11, 2012. On January 14, 2016, the Board reviewed the regulation and, for reasons stated in this section, determined that the regulation should not be amended or repealed, but should be retained in its current form.