



Exempt Action Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation	4VAC50-11
Regulation title	Public Participation Guidelines
Action title	Repeal of existing regulatory public participation procedures (4VAC50-10) and promulgation of model public participation guidelines
Final agency action date	July 17, 2008
Document preparation date	August 22, 2008

When a regulatory action is exempt from executive branch review pursuant to § 2.2-4002 or § 2.2-4006 of the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), the agency is encouraged to provide information to the public on the Regulatory Town Hall using this form.

Note: While posting this form on the Town Hall is optional, the agency must comply with requirements of the Virginia Register Act, the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*, and Executive Orders 36 (06) and 58 (99).

Summary

Please provide a brief summary of all regulatory changes, including the rationale behind such changes. Alert the reader to all substantive matters or changes. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

Public participation guidelines exist to promote public involvement in the development, amendment, or repeal of an agency's (or board's) regulations. Under §2.2-4007.02 of the Code of Virginia, every rulemaking body in Virginia is required to adopt public participation guidelines and to use these guidelines in the development of its regulations. Chapter 321 of the 2008 Acts of Assembly (effective July 1, 2008) mandates that by December 1, 2008, agencies either adopt model public participation guidelines issued by the Department of Planning and Budget or if they need to make significant changes to the model guidelines, promulgate new public participation guidelines as fast-track regulations.

The amendments repeal the current public participation guidelines and promulgate the model public participation guidelines. Highlights of the model public participation guidelines include the addition of negotiated rulemaking panels and the regulatory advisory panels and instructions for notification lists.

Statement of final agency action

Please provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including (1) the date the action was taken, (2) the name of the agency taking the action, and (3) the title of the regulation.

On July 17, 2008, the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board passed a motion approving, authorizing, and directing through an exempt action the repeal of existing regulatory public participation procedures (4VAC50-10) and the filing of the Commonwealth's recommended standardized final model public participation guidelines (4VAC50-11). The Department of Conservation and Recreation was authorized to submit the regulations and any other required documents to the Virginia Town Hall and the Registrar of Virginia on behalf of the Board.

Family impact

Assess the impact of this regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability.

There will be no impact of this regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability.