



Virginia
Regulatory
Town Hall

Periodic Review and Retention of Existing Regulations Agency Background Document

Agency Name:	State Water Control Board
VAC Chapter Number:	9 VAC 25-192-10 et seq.
Regulation Title:	VPA General Permit for Confined Animal Feeding Operations
Action Title:	Regulation Review and Retention
Date:	December 3, 2001

This information is required pursuant to the Administrative Process Act § 9-6.14:25, Executive Order Twenty-Five (98), and Executive Order Fifty-Eight (99) which outline procedures for periodic review of regulations of agencies within the executive branch. Each existing regulation is to be reviewed at least once every three years and measured against the specific public health, safety, and welfare goals assigned by agencies during the promulgation process.

This form should be used where the agency is planning to retain an existing regulation.

Summary

Please provide a brief summary of the regulation. There is no need to state each provision; instead give a general description of the regulation and alert the reader to its subject matter and intent.

This general permit regulation governs the management of pollutants at confined animal feeding operations with 300 or more animal units utilizing a liquid manure collection and storage system. "Confined Animal Feeding Operation" means a lot or facility, together with any associated treatment works, where both of the following conditions are met:

1. Animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of forty-five days or more in any twelve-month period; and
2. Crops, vegetation, forage growth or post-harvest residues are not sustained over any portion of the operation of the lot or facility.

Basis

Please identify the state and/or federal source of legal authority for the regulation. The discussion of this authority should include a description of its scope and the extent to which the authority is mandatory or discretionary. Where applicable, explain where the regulation exceeds the minimum requirements of the state and/or federal mandate.

The basis for this regulation is § 62.1-44.2 et seq. of the Code of Virginia. Specifically, § 62.1-44.15(10) authorizes the Board to adopt such regulations as it deems necessary to enforce the general water quality management program and §62.1-44.17:1 authorizes the Board to establish a general permit for confined animal feeding operations.

Public Comment

Please summarize all public comment received as the result of the Notice of Periodic Review published in the Virginia Register and provide the agency response. Where applicable, describe critical issues or particular areas of concern in the regulation. Also please indicate if an informal advisory group was formed for purposes of assisting in the periodic review.

No public comments were received during the Notice of Periodic Review comment period.

Effectiveness

Please provide a description of the specific and measurable goals of the regulation. Detail the effectiveness of the regulation in achieving such goals and the specific reasons the agency has determined that the regulation is essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens. Please assess the regulation's impact on the institution of the family and family stability. In addition, please indicate whether the regulation is clearly written and easily understandable by the individuals and entities affected.

There are 136 confined animal feeding operations registered under this general permit. These farms would have been required to obtain individual permits if the general permit had not been available. The general permit process saved considerable time and expense for each of these farms compared to the time and cost involved in obtaining individual permits. It also establishes uniform requirements for every operation that is covered, where requirements in individual permits vary from permit to permit. This regulation is clearly written and easily understandable for the entities directly affected.

Alternatives

Please describe the specific alternatives for achieving the purpose of the existing regulation that have been considered as a part of the periodic review process. This description should include an explanation of why such alternatives were rejected and this regulation reflects the least burdensome alternative available for achieving the purpose of the regulation.

The Code of Virginia requires that the Board issue coverage under this general permit for operations that qualify. The only alternative to the general permit is an individual VPA permit which contains requirements at least as stringent as those in the general permit. In order to streamline the permitting

process and to make permit requirements consistent statewide, the general permit alternative is preferred over the individual permit alternative.

Recommendation

Please state that 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. This general permit expires on November 16, 2004. At that time, it may be revised during the reissuance process.

Family Impact Statement

Please provide an analysis of the regulation's impact on the institution of the family and family stability including the extent to which it: 1) strengthens or erodes the authority and rights of parents in the education, nurturing, and supervision of their children; 2) encourages or discourages economic self-sufficiency, self-pride, and the assumption of responsibility for oneself, one's spouse, and one's children and/or elderly parents; 3) strengthens or erodes the marital commitment; and 4) increases or decreases disposable family income.

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