

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Attorney General

Robert F. McDonnell Attorney General 900 East Main Street Richmond, Virginia 23219 804-786-2071 FAX 804-786-1991 Virginia Relay Services

October 17, 2008

7-1-1

David K. Paylor Director Department of Environmental Quality 629 East Main Street Richmond, Virginia 23219

> Department of Environmental Quality Public Participation Guidelines

Dear Mr. Paylor:

I have reviewed the revised public participation guidelines adopted by the Department of Environmental Quality. These are consistent with the Model Public Participation Guidelines prepared by the Department of Planning and Budget.

In my view the Department has the authority to adopt these regulations in order to exercise its authority under various programs such as those required by § 58.1-3661 and § 62.1-195.1 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Adoption of these regulations as exempt from the operation of Article 2 of the Administrative Process Act, §§ 2.2-4006, *et seq.* of the *Code of Virginia*, was authorized by HB 1167/SB734, Chapters 321 and 575 respectively of the 2008 Acts of Assembly.

If you need more please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Roger L. Chaffe Senior Assistant Attorney General

cc: Cindy Berndt, Department of Environmental Quality 573L490 11-9