



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

9 VAC 25-720 – Water Quality Management Planning Regulation
Department of Environmental Quality
April 23, 2007

Summary of the Proposed Regulation

The State Water Control Board (Board) proposes to amend the seasonal 5-day Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD5) limits and Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) limits for the North River Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). The revised limits were outlined in the current Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit as available to the facility once the Water Quality Management Planning Regulation is amended. The permit was reviewed by EPA and has been shown to be protective of water quality for North River downstream of the North River WWTF. The public was noticed with all public comment issues addressed.

Results of Analysis

There is insufficient data to accurately compare the magnitude of the benefits versus the costs. Detailed analysis of the benefits and costs can be found in the next section.

Estimated Economic Impact

The Board proposes to amend the seasonal CBOD5 and TKN limits for the North River WWTF in the current Water Quality Management Planning Regulation. The revised limits were outlined in the current VPDES permit as available to the facility once the current regulation is amended. Once approved, the CBOD5 (January-May) waste load allocation for the facility will be reduced from 1030 kilogram/day (kg/d) to 700 kg/d. The CBOD5 (June-December) waste load allocation for the facility will be increased from 606 kg/d to 800 kg/d. The TKN (June-December) and TKN (January-May) waste load allocations will be increased from 303 kg/d to

420 kg/d and 545 kg/d to 850 kg/d, respectively. The revised permit limits will accommodate an expansion of capacity from 22 million gallons per day (MGD)¹ to 28 MGD.

The proposed amendment will likely benefit the North River WWTF in that the facility will be able to expand and upgrade its capacity. On the other hand, the proposed amendment may increase the actual discharges to the North River downstream of the North River WWTF. According to DEQ, the current VPDES permit, with the revised effluent limits outlined as available to the facility once the regulation is amended, was reviewed by EPA and has been shown to be protective of water quality for North River downstream of the North River WWTF. The public has been noticed of the permit and all public comment issues have been addressed. Therefore, the proposed amendment will likely not have any significant adverse impact on public health or the environment.

Businesses and Entities Affected

The proposed regulation will affect the North River WWTF.

Localities Particularly Affected

The proposed regulation will particularly affect members of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Regional Sewer Authority including City of Harrisonburg, Town of Dayton, Town of Bridgewater, Town of Mt. Crawford, and Rockingham County.

Projected Impact on Employment

The proposed amendment will likely have a positive impact on the number of people employed by the North River WWTF due to the facility's ability to operate at its expanded capacity.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

The North River WWTF is a public-owned facility. The proposed regulation will likely not have any significant impact on the use and value of private property.

Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects

No small businesses will be affected.

¹ According to the Department of Environmental Quality, the current design flow of the facility is 16 MGD.

Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact

No small businesses will be affected

Legal Mandate

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.H of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 21 (02). Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. Further, if the proposed regulation has adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.