GUIDANCE FOR CITIZEN NOMINATION OF STATE SURFACE WATERS FOR INCLUSION IN VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY'S ANNUAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING PLAN. IN ACCORDANCE WITH §62.1-44.19:5.F OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, WATER QUALITY MONITORING INFORMATION AND RESTORATION ACT.

PURPOSE OF GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

This document provides detailed guidance on implementation of §62.1-44.19:5.F, the section of the Water Quality Monitoring, Information and Restoration Act that provides for requests from the public regarding specific segments that should be included in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) annual Water Quality Monitoring Plan.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTACT

Questions concerning this document should be addressed to Mr. Stuart Torbeck, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218 at (804) 698-4461 or the DEQ in-state toll free number (1-800-592-5482). The street address is 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

BACKGROUND ON THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

During the 1997 legislative session, the General Assembly enacted the Water Quality Monitoring, Information and Restoration Act (the Act). The Act directs DEQ to provide a procedure for citizens of the Commonwealth to nominate portions of lakes, streams, and rivers of Virginia for water quality monitoring by DEQ. Citizens can send their nominations to DEQ via the procedures described below. Nominations received by April 30th each year will be considered for inclusion in DEQ's annual monitoring plan for the following calendar year. The monitoring plan will be finalized after considering the citizen's nominations for inclusion. DEQ will respond to each request in writing, stating the reasons for accepting or denying each nomination. DEQ's response is due by August 31st for nominations received between January 1st and April 30th.

PROCESS TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL MONITORING

Any person may request that a specific body of water be included in DEQ's annual water quality monitoring plan. Each request received between January 1st and April 30th, shall be reviewed when DEQ develops or updates the annual water quality monitoring plan. Such requests shall include, at a minimum (i) a geographical description of the water body recommended for monitoring; (ii) the reason the monitoring is requested, and (iii) any water quality data that the petitioner may have collected or compiled. Please see the nominating form Attachment 1.

Please note that the monitoring program covered by this process is directed at the surface waters of the state. Private ponds, privately owned lakes and any other body of water not deemed to be "State Waters" are ineligible.

Nominations can be submitted by mail, fax, email, or hand delivered to the receptionist's desk at our Central Office at 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia.

Mailing Address:
Mr. Stuart Torbeck
VA Dept. of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 1105
Richmond, VA. 23218

Street Address (FedEx):
Mr. Stuart Torbeck
VA Dept. of Environmental Quality
629 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

FAX:
Attention Stuart Torbeck
VA Dept of Environmental Quality
804-698-4032

E- MAIL
charles.torbeck@deq.virginia.gov

Use of the nomination form shown in Attachment 1 is preferred. All nominations with the minimum of information as outlined above will be accepted for review.

TIMELINE

Nominations received between **January 1st and April 30th each year** will be considered for inclusion in DEQ's Water Quality Monitoring plan for the following calendar year. DEQ will respond in writing on its approval or denial of each nomination by August 31st. The final DEQ annual monitoring plan will be made available for public inspection. A notice of availability of the annual monitoring plan will be placed in the Virginia Register and on DEQ's web site at *http://www.deq.virginia.gov/water*

ATTACHMENT 1

REQUEST TO INCLUDE A WATER SEGMENT IN DEQ'S ANNUAL MONITORING PLAN

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

E-mail address: _____

Telephone: Home: _____ **Business:** _____ **Fax:** _____

Geographic description of the water body:

(1) Name of the water body or segment proposed for monitoring:

(2) Description of the upstream and downstream boundaries of the water body proposed for monitoring. Attach a map (preferably a photocopy of a 7.5 minute quad USGS topographic map) which delineates the boundaries:

(3) Reason for requesting that this water body be monitored:

(4) Attach any water quality data that you have collected or compiled. Include the name of the organization/entity that generated the data.

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