



Virginia
Regulatory
Town Hall

Notice of Intended Regulatory Action
Agency Background Document

Agency Name:	State Water Control Board
VAC Chapter Number:	9 VAC 25-195-10 et seq.
Regulation Title:	General VPDES Permit Regulation for Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Facilities
Action Title:	Reissue Existing Regulation
Date:	September 10, 2001

This information is required prior to the submission to the Registrar of Regulations of a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) pursuant to the Administrative Process Act § 9-6.14:7.1 (B). Please refer to Executive Order Twenty-Five (98) and Executive Order Fifty-Eight (99) for more information.

Purpose*

Please describe the subject matter and intent of the planned regulation. This description should include a brief explanation of the need for and the goals of the new or amended regulation.

This rulemaking is proposed in order to reissue the existing general permit which expires on March 5, 2003. The general permit will establish limitations and monitoring requirements for point source discharges from fish farms or other aquatic animal production facilities.

Basis

Please identify the state and/or federal source of legal authority to promulgate the contemplated regulation. The discussion of this authority should include a description of its scope and the extent to which the authority is mandatory or discretionary. The correlation between the proposed regulatory action and the legal authority identified above should be explained. Full citations of legal authority and, if available, web site addresses for locating the text of the cited authority must be provided.

The basis for this regulation is § 62.1-44.2 et seq. of the Code of Virginia. Specifically, § 62.1-44.15(5) authorizes the Board to issue permits for the discharge of treated sewage, industrial wastes or other waste

into or adjacent to state waters and § 62.1-44.15(7) authorizes the Board to adopt rules governing the procedures of the Board with respect to the issuance of permits. Further, § 62.1-44.15(10) authorizes the Board to adopt such regulations as it deems necessary to enforce the general water quality management program, § 62.1-44.15(14) authorizes the Board to establish requirements for the treatment of sewage, industrial wastes and other wastes, § 62.1-44.16 specifies the Board's authority to regulate discharges of industrial wastes, § 62.1-44.20 provides that agents of the Board may have the right of entry to public or private property for the purpose of obtaining information or conducting necessary surveys or investigations, and § 62.1-44.21 authorizes the Board to require owners to furnish information necessary to determine the effect of the wastes from a discharge on the quality of state waters. Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1251 et seq.) authorizes states to administer the NPDES permit program under state law. The Commonwealth of Virginia received such authorization in 1975 under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. EPA. This Memorandum of Understanding was modified on May 20, 1991 to authorize the Commonwealth to administer a General VPDES Permit Program.

Need*

Please detail the specific reasons the agency has determined that the proposed regulatory action would be essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens. In addition, a statement delineating any potential issues that may need to be addressed as the regulation is developed shall be supplied

This proposed regulatory action is needed in order to establish permitting requirements for discharges from fish farms or other aquatic animal production facilities. The existing general permit expires on March 5, 2003. The general permit regulation is being reissued in order to continue making it available after that date.

Substance*

Please detail any changes that would be implemented: this discussion should include a summary of the proposed regulatory action where a new regulation is being promulgated; where existing provisions of a regulation are being amended, the statement should explain how the existing regulation will be changed.

The general permit will establish limitations and monitoring requirements for point source discharges from fish farms and other aquatic animal production facilities. As with an individual VPDES permit, the effluent limits in the general permit will be set to protect the quality of the waters receiving the discharges. No specific changes to the existing general permit have been identified at this time. Amendments may be identified following the submittal of public comments on this Notice.

Alternatives*

Please describe the process by which the agency has considered, or will consider, less burdensome and less intrusive alternatives for achieving the need. Also describe, to the extent known, the specific alternatives to the proposal that have been considered or will be considered to meet the essential purpose of the action, and the reasoning by which the agency has rejected any of the alternatives considered.

These discharges are considered to be point sources of pollutants and thus are subject to regulation under the VPDES permit program. There are two alternatives for compliance with federal and state requirements to permit discharges. One is to issue individual VPDES permits to each treatment works. The other is to reissue the general VPDES permit to cover this category of discharger.

Public Participation*

Please indicate the agency is seeking comments on the intended regulatory action, to include ideas to assist the agency in the development of the proposal and the costs and benefits of the alternatives stated in this notice or other alternatives. Also indicate whether a public meeting is to be held to receive comments on this notice. Indicate that 1) the agency is not holding a meeting because the agency has authorized proceeding without holding a meeting or 2) the agency is holding a meeting. If a public meeting is to be held, indicate where information on the public meeting (i.e., date, time and place) may be found.

The Board is seeking comments on the intended regulatory action, including (i) ideas to assist in the development of a proposal, (ii) the costs and benefits of the amendments proposed in this notice or other alternatives and (iii) the impacts of the regulation on farm or forest lands. Comments must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Friday October 12, 2001.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments for the public comment file may do so by mail, fax, or email to Michael Gregory, Office of Water Permit Programs; Dept. of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 10009, Richmond, Va. 23240, telephone 804/698-4065, fax 804/698-4032, email mbgregory@deq.state.va.us. Written comments must include the commenter's name and address. In order to be considered, comments must be received by the close of the comment period.

Following publication of the draft general permit regulation in the Virginia Register, the Board will hold at least one public hearing to provide opportunity for public comment.

Participatory Approach*

Please indicate the extent to which an ad hoc advisory group will be used in the development of the proposed regulation. Indicate that 1) the agency is not using the participatory approach in the development of the proposal because the agency has authorized proceeding without using the participatory approach; 2) the agency is using the participatory approach in the development of the proposal; or 3) the agency is inviting comment on whether to use the participatory approach to assist the agency in the development of a proposal.

The Board will form a Technical Advisory Committee of relevant stakeholders to assist in the development of the regulation. Any person who desires to be on the committee should notify the agency contact in writing by the close of the public comment period and provide their name, address, telephone number and the name of the organization they represent.

Family Impact Statement

Please provide a preliminary analysis of the potential impact of the proposed regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability including to what extent the regulatory action will: 1) strengthen

or erode the authority and rights of parents in the education, nurturing, and supervision of their children; 2) encourage or discourage economic self-sufficiency, self-pride, and the assumption of responsibility for oneself, one's spouse, and one's children and/or elderly parents; 3) strengthen or erode the marital commitment; and 4) increase or decrease disposable family income.

It is not anticipated that this regulation will have a direct impact on the institution of the family or family stability.