



Down the Pipeline

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **New Rule from EPA on disposal of hazardous pharmaceuticals into sewer systems.**
- **Freshwater Ammonia Criteria implementation steadily moves forward.**

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The State Water Control Board approved the new ammonia criteria for freshwater on December 13, 2018. This very stringent criteria is numerically about one-half of the current criteria. It is still expected to cause substantial cost impacts for most/many wastewater permittees.

Its current status is that it must clear a review by State Natural Resources and then Executive Review. After clearing these two hurdles, it must then go back to EPA Region 3 for final approval.

Most likely this criteria for ammonia will become effective during late 2019 at the earliest. It is up to EPA to approve the phased implementation program that has been proposed in order to limit the financial impacts upon smaller communities.



BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENTS

Virginia Department of Health began work on two biosolids studies last year. One is a pathogen sampling study and the department was finalizing a memorandum of

understanding with the University of Arizona for sample testing. Regarding the epidemiological study, they are developing a questionnaire for use by citizens living near

by land application sites. There will be a need to cross-reference the answers to those sites that actually received Class B material from wastewater treatment plants.

GOVERNOR ISSUES EXECUTIVE ORDER 29

Governor Northam issued this order on January 22, 2019, reestablishing the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice. Environmental justice as defined by EO 29 is “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, faith, national origin, or income, in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and pol-

icies.” The intent is to bring consistency in how these issues are evaluated by all state agencies.

The order also states that “no population, especially minority, low-income, or historically-underserved communities should face higher levels of pollution than any other population within Virginia.



HAZARDOUS WASTE PHARMACEUTICALS AND INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT

“Management Standards for Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals and Amendment to the P075 Listing for Nicotine” was published on February 22, 2019. It will be in effect on August 22, 2019. First of all, OTC nicotine replacement therapies are no longer considered hazardous waste when discarded. Second, the discharge of all hazardous waste pharmaceuticals to

the sewer will be prohibited under 40 CFR 266, subpart P. Healthcare facilities and others subject to this rule will not be able to use the RCRA domestic sewage exclusion in 40 CFR 261.4(a)(1)(ii) any longer for hazardous pharmaceutical disposal.

Facilities affected by this new rule are hospitals, nursing homes, doctor’s offices,

dental offices, urgent care offices, veterinarians, ophthalmologists, pharmacies, chiropractors, and others.

The IPP Coordinator will be notifying all local entities affected by this new rule in the coming weeks leading up to the rule’s effective date.

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VIRGINIA TRUE CORPORATION LAWSUIT



DEQ and the SWCB filed a suit against the developer of a luxury golf course in Richmond County for alleged erosion and sediment violations at Fones Cliffs along the Rappahannock River.

Last year the corporation cleared land atop of the cliffs without obtaining the proper state permits and stormwater management plan approval.

After heavy rains last spring, citizens noticed a breach in the cliffs where trees and soil had sloughed down toward the river. DEQ Director Paylor referred the matter to the Office of Attorney General. The suit contains 7 counts of unlawful actions, all stemming from the illegally cleared land and ignoring the issuance of multiple notices of violation by DEQ.

The suit seeks an injunction and the imposition of the maximum allowable civil penalties. A consent order was expected to be filed in mid-March.

This action could be an indicator of the State Administration increasing water enforcement.



Providing Quality Service to Everyone!

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WORKERS UNCOVER WOODEN WATER MAIN!

Utility workers in Albany, New York, recently uncovered a wooden water main that likely dates back to the 1700's underneath the pavement on Broadway.

Before they pulled out the 6 foot long segment of log, the workers weren't sure what they were actually looking at. "As soon as we saw it, I thought, 'Well, that can't be an old tele-

phone pole,'" the water department's commissioner told the Times Union. "Wood water mains go way back. It reminds us that Albany was an older urban settlement."

Back in the 1700's, water mains were commonly made from wood. Today the water department removed this abandoned wooden water main located at Broadway and Beaver

streets during an excavation at that location.

Work was being done in that area of the road due to a recent investigation that revealed an old building had never been hooked up to the city sewer system and was discharging untreated wastes into the Hudson River.