

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the release of treated industrial wastewater and commingled storm and cooling water into a water body in Hampton and Norfolk, Virginia.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** December 3, 2020 to January 4, 2021.

**PERMIT NAME:** Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – treated wastewater and commingled storm water cooling water issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board.

**APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER:** Hampton Roads Connector Partners (HRCP); 240 Corporate Boulevard, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor-Suite 400, Norfolk, Virginia 23502; VA0093084.

**FACILITY NAME AND LOCATION:** Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) I-64 Expansion Project; North and South Islands of HRBT.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** HRCP has applied for a new permit for the private HRBT I-64 Expansion Project. The applicant proposes to release treated industrial wastewater and commingled storm and cooling water at a rate of 1.13 millions of gallons per day into a water body. Sludge from the treatment process will be removed from the site for disposal at an approved landfill facility. The facility proposes to release the treated industrial wastewater and commingled storm and cooling water near the confluence of the James River, the Elizabeth River and the Chesapeake Bay (Hampton Roads), in Hampton and Norfolk, in the Lower James River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: physical and chemical properties, solids, inorganics, and toxicity.

This facility is subject to the requirements of 9 VAC 25-820 and has registered for coverage under the General VPDES Watershed Permit Regulation for Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus Discharges and Nutrient Trading in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in Virginia; VAN040176. As a condition of that permit, the applicant is required to offset any loads of total nitrogen or total phosphorus that are expected to be discharged in a given calendar year. In order to offset the anticipated nutrient loads from this proposal, the applicant has acquired 4000 pounds of total nitrogen credits and 2000 pounds of total phosphorus credits for the period beginning for the compliance year which starts January 1, 2020, and for each compliance year thereafter through and including the compliance year ending December 31, 2025, in accordance with a Nutrient Offset Agreement for Hampton Roads Connector Partners executed with the Hampton Roads Sanitation District, dated October 29, 2020.

**HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING:** DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing {on the draft permit} {on the draft modifications to the permit} by hand-delivery, e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. DEQ must receive hand-delivery and postal mail by close of business and email and fax comments by 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

**CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Carl D. Thomas; Tidewater Regional Office; 5636 Southern Boulevard, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462; Phone: (757) 518-2161; E-mail: carl.thomas@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: is (804) 698-4178.; The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above {by appointment} or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.