

## Public Hearing: Draft VWP No. 20-0514 Caroline County Public Water Supply Project

**September 10, 2025**

**Overview:** This public hearing is to seek comments on the revised draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will authorize the Caroline County Public Utility to construct and operate a new surface water withdrawal intake on the Rappahannock River in Caroline County, VA, and authorizes impacts to wetland and surface waters during the construction of the supporting water system infrastructure.

### Project Description:

Caroline County Department of Public Utilities has applied for a Virginia Water Protection (VWP) permit to install a new 9.0 million gallon-per-day water withdrawal intake structure located on the south bank of Rappahannock River, a raw water pump station, associated infrastructure, and approximately 35 miles water of line for the transfer of raw water from the intake to the proposed water treatment plant located in the vicinity of Carmel Church, VA. The project will impact 0.76 acres of surface waters, consisting of 0.06 acres of permanent impacts and 0.70 acres of temporary impacts.

### Draft VWP Permit No. 20-0514 History:

<b>Pre-Application Panel</b>	May 20, 2019	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Draft Permit Issued</b>	April 11, 2024
<b>Application Received</b>	March 27, 2020	<b>Public Comment Period</b>	May 18 – June 18, 2024
<b>Agency Comments Requested</b>	April 17, 2020	<b>Public Comment Period</b>	Aug. 25 – Oct. 11, 2024
<b>Notification to Riparian Landowners</b>	April 17, 2020	<b>Initial Public Hearing</b>	Sept. 25, 2024
<b>Tribal Comments Requested</b>	April 27, 2020	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Draft Permit Issued</b>	June 17, 2025
<b>Permit Fee Paid</b>	May 21, 2020	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Draft Permit Issued</b>	July 11, 2025
<b>VIMS Modeling Received</b>	Feb. 14, 2023	<b>Public Comment Period</b>	Aug. 10 – Sept. 25, 2025
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Draft Permit Issued</b>	March 13, 2024	<b>Public Hearing</b>	Sept. 10, 2025

### Actions Taken by DEQ after the Public Hearing held on September 25, 2024

#### Additional Information Received:

- Revised water withdrawal demand projections dated December 20, 2024
  - Removed water demands associated with industrial cooling water
- Revised Salinity Analysis for the Rappahannock and the Mattaponi tributaries
- Updated Beneficial Use Analysis for the Rappahannock and the Mattaponi tributaries

#### Revisions to Draft VWP Permit No. 20-0514

- Reduced requested maximum daily, monthly, and annual water withdrawal limits
- Reduction in maximum daily withdrawal volumes during drought warning and drought emergency declarations
- Condition requiring submission of a feasibility study within five years of permit issuance, analyzing reduction or elimination of the interbasin transfer of wastewater into the Mattaponi River Basin
- Condition requiring development and submission of a comprehensive Water Loss Auditing Plan for DEQ review and approval
- Condition requiring development and submission of a comprehensive Leak Detection Repair Plan to the Department for review and approval

#### How to Submit Comments

Public Comment Period Closes September 25, 2025 at 11:59 pm

Submit Comments to Allison Major, DEQ Water Withdrawal Permit Writer

- Email: [Allison.Major@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Allison.Major@deq.virginia.gov)
- Mail: Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Withdrawal Permitting, 1111 East Main Street, Suite 1400, Richmond 23219



## ACRONYMS

### Reference Guide to Acronyms for Caroline County PWS Information Meeting

<b>μS/cm</b>	Microsiemens per centimeter
<b>DEQ</b>	Department of Environmental Quality (Virginia)
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency (Federal)
<b>Mgal</b>	Million gallons
<b>Mgal/d</b>	Million gallons per day
<b>PEEP</b>	Permitting Enhancement and Evaluation Platform
<b>PWS</b>	Public Water Supply
<b>VPDES</b>	Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
<b>VWP</b>	Virginia Water Protection
<b>WTP</b>	Water treatment plant
<b>WWTP</b>	Wastewater treatment plant