

Administrative Procedures – Public Input Statement

Instructions:

In completing the public input statement, an agency describes what it did do, or will do to maximize the involvement of the public in the development of the rule. This form must be completed for the following filings made during the rulemaking process:

- Proposed Rule Filing
- Final Proposed Filing
- Adopted Rule Filing
- Emergency Rule Filing

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Vermont Water Quality Standards

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Agency of Natural Resources

3. PLEASE LIST THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE TAKEN TO MAXIMIZE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

1. During the process for development and passage of Act 79 of 2016, and prior to drafting the proposed amendments, ANR staff conducted targeted outreach to key stakeholders with specific interest in the VWQS. Stakeholders are listed in number 4, below.

2. Several pre-rulemaking public outreach meetings as well as individual stakeholder meetings were held by the Department between January, 2016 and submitting the VWQS for rulemaking.

3. A pre-rulemaking draft was circulated and posted online for review following a large public meeting that was held May 23, 2016.

4. Four public meetings were held during the public comment period in August 2016. One was held in Montpelier, another was held in Winooski, a third in Arlington, and the final in Londonderry. The latter two meetings were held in southern Vermont, in the area in which surface water reclassifications are proposed, pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1253(c).

5. The Regional Planning Commissions hosted a series of informational meetings during June and July to support

"Clean Water Conversations" with the Agency. The proposed VWQS amendments were discussed as part of this series of meetings. Questions were addressed, but formal comments were not taken at these meetings.

4. BEYOND GENERAL ADVERTISEMENTS, PLEASE LIST THE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

The following individuals and organizations were made aware of and offered the opportunity to comment upon the pre-rulemaking draft and many provided comments during the public comment period.

Legislators: Rep. David Deen and members of the House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources; and Sen. Mark MacDonald and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

State Agencies: Vermont Agency of Transportation; Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets; Vermont Department of Health; Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife; and Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

Federal Agencies: United States Department of Agriculture-US Forest Service; and United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Regional Agencies: All Vermont Regional Planning Commissions.

Non-governmental Organizations: Vermont Natural Resources Council; Conservation Law Foundation; Lake Champlain International; and Watersheds United Vermont, which provides representation to dozens of smaller watershed groups and associations.

Businesses, or Business representatives: Green Mountain Power; Burlington Electric Department; Independent Hydro Owners of Vermont; KSE Partners; and MMR, LLC.