

## **PUBLIC NOTICE – ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT**

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** To seek public comment on a draft individual permit from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) authorizing removal of portions of a concrete dam located in the Pigg River. Dam removal will drain the impoundment upstream of the dam and discharge sediment to Pigg River downstream of the dam, restoring aquatic habitat, providing fish passage, increasing stream habitat complexity, and transporting sediment more effectively. The project is in Franklin County, Virginia.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** For 30 days, starting from the day after the notice is in the newspaper.

**PERMIT NAME:** Virginia Water Protection (VWP) Permit issued by DEQ under the authority of the State Water Control Board.

**APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER:** Friends of the Rivers of Virginia, Inc., P.O. Box 1750, Roanoke, Virginia 24008, VWP Permit Number 15-1551.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Friends of the Rivers of Virginia, Inc. (FORVA) applied for a new VWP permit to remove portions of a concrete dam located in the Pigg River in Franklin County, Virginia. FORVA states opening the dam will restore 10,730 linear feet of Pigg River currently impounded by the dam, one additional mile of the Pigg River upstream of the current impoundment, and 5 miles downstream of the dam by restoring aquatic habitat, including federally endangered *Percina rex*, providing fish passage, increasing stream habitat complexity, and transporting sediment more effectively. A woody debris accumulation will be removed from the river upstream of the dam to preclude transporting woody debris downstream. Temporary stream impacts will occur as a result of sediment discharges downstream of the dam for up to five miles. Temporary impacts also include 0.16 acres of shrub-scrub wetland and 0.19 acres of Pigg River to gain access to the dam for demolition, including installing a temporary causeway. The permittee will create 0.06 acres shrub-scrub wetland at the completion of construction to replace a loss of 0.06 acres of Pigg River stream bed. FORVA states there will be no other temporary or permanent stream or wetland impacts associated with the project due to placing fill material or draining the impoundment. Compensation is not required for the project as described in the application. The facility is located in the Pigg River watershed and is located in the Roanoke River basin. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. DEQ's preliminary decision is to approve the permit.

**HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING:** DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requestor and of all persons represented by the commenter/requestor. 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 requestor or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit, and 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:** Jay Roberts, Blue Ridge Regional Office, 3019 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, Virginia, 24019, phone (540) 562-6785, fax (540) 562-6725, and e-mail [jesse.roberts@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:jesse.roberts@deq.virginia.gov). 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.

### **Public Notice Verification Form**

Complete this form for the documentation of publication of the Public Notice for VWP Individual Permit Number 15-1551. Please return original to: Jay Roberts, Dept. of Environmental Quality, Blue Ridge Regional Office, 3019 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, Virginia 24019.

ATTACH PRINTED COPY OF NOTICE IN THIS SPACE OR  
ATTACH TO BACK OF THIS STATEMENT

I hereby certify that the notice attached hereto in the space above appeared in

\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.  
Name of Paper Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date