

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION**

**NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION AND PUBLIC HEARING**

**Carroll County**

**Application for State Discharge Permit 21DP0837, NPDES Permit MD0021831:**

The City of Westminster, 45 West Main Street, Westminster, Carroll County, MD 21157, applied for renewal of the permit to discharge an average of 5.00 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated municipal wastewater from the Westminster Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) located at 1161 Old New Windsor Pike, Westminster, Carroll County, MD, 21158, via the existing Outfall 001A to the Little Pipe Creek, which is designated as Use IV-P, protected for recreational trout waters and public water supply.

In addition, the City has applied for a new Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) permit (Permit No: 24 –IPR - 01, NPDES No. MD2401IPR) to treat a portion of effluent discharged from the Westminster WRF, via a multi-stage PureWater Westminster facility for discharging up to a maximum of 0.5 MGD purified reclaimed water to the Cranberry Reservoir via a new proposed Outfall 002A.

The Department is proposing a Tentative Determination (TD) to reissue the discharge permit with the following effluent limitations:

At existing Outfall 001A for discharge up to 5.00 MGD to Little Pipe Creek (Westminster WRF):

BOD5, 30 mg/l maximum monthly arithmetic mean, 45 mg/l maximum weekly arithmetic mean; Total Suspended Solid (TSS), 30 mg/l maximum monthly arithmetic mean, 45 mg/l maximum weekly arithmetic mean and 456,834 pounds/year annual maximum loading rate; BOD5 and TSS percent removal efficiency, 85% minimum monthly average; Total ammonia nitrogen as N (Interim Limits), 2.7 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean for summer period (5/1- 10/31) and 4.4 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean for winter period (11/1- 4/30); Total ammonia nitrogen as N (Final Limits), 1.4 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean for summer period (5/1- 10/31), and 2.0 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean for winter period (11/1- 4/30); Total Phosphorus as P (TP), 4,568 pounds/year annual maximum loading rate; Total Nitrogen as N (TN), 60,911 pounds/year annual maximum loading rate, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), 5.0 mg/l minimum at any time; E. coli, 126 MPN/100 ml maximum monthly geometric mean value; pH maintained between 6.5 and 8.5; total residual chlorine 0.012 mg/l instantaneous maximum.

The interim total ammonia nitrogen limits shall apply upon issuance of the discharge permit and remain in effect until the final effluent ammonia limits become effective. Total ammonia nitrogen as N final limits shall apply twelve (12) months after the effective date of this discharge permit and remain in effect for the remainder of the permit cycle.

The bacteria TMDL for the Double Pipe Creek (DPC) sub-watershed, approved by the EPA on 12/3/2009, allocates an aggregate of 9,391 billion MPN E.coli per year. The E.coli limit of 126/100ml is in conformance with this TMDL. The nutrient and sediment TMDLs for the DPC sub-watershed, approved by EPA on 4/26/2013 and 2/20/2009, respectively, have allocated 4,568 pounds/year for TP and aggregated 360 tons/year (720,702 pounds/year) for TSS, to this facility. The permit limits for TSS and TP are in conformance with these nutrient and sediment TMDLs. This permit is also in conformance with the "Chesapeake Bay TMDL for Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sediment" approved by USEPA on December 29, 2010.

At new Outfall 002A for discharge up to 0.50 MGD to Cranberry Reservoir (Proposed IPR PureWater Facility):

BOD5, 2 mg/l maximum monthly arithmetic mean, 3 mg/l maximum weekly arithmetic mean; Turbidity, 0.3 NTU maximum monthly arithmetic mean; Total ammonia nitrogen as N, 0.4 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean and 1.7 mg/l daily maximum arithmetic mean for summer period (5/1-10/31) and 0.6 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean and 2.4 mg/l daily maximum arithmetic mean for winter period (11/1- 4/30); Total Phosphorus as P (TP), 0.02 mg/l maximum monthly arithmetic mean; Dissolved Oxygen (DO), 5.0 mg/l minimum at any time; E. coli, 126 MPN/100 ml maximum monthly geometric mean value; pH maintained between 6.5 and 8.5 and total residual chlorine <0.1 mg/l (non-detect).

The effluent limits are established to ensure compliance with State water quality standards. The minimum monitoring and reporting requirements for effluent and raw wastewater influent are mandated to ensure compliance with the permit requirements.

Per MD Environmental Article § 1-602(a)(2), an EJ score was calculated for Westminster WRF. The EJ Score is 20. This score has been calculated considering a combination of the following factors: (1) Pollution Burden Exposure Percentile, (2) Pollution Environmental Effects Percentile, and (3) Sensitive Population and Populations Lacking Access Percentile. For more information on how the score was calculated, launch the MDEnviroScreen tool from this website- <https://mdewwp.page.link/EJ>.

The public hearing documents, including the permit application, draft permit, and Summary Report & Fact Sheets (SRFS), are available on MDE's website at <https://mdewwp.page.link/WWPPortal>. Search for "21DP0837" under "State Num" and click on the "More Info" button for the permit entry of your interest to generate a list of available documents for download.

The Department has scheduled a public hearing on the tentative determination for the above permit on **Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Carroll County Public Library, Exploration Commons Large Meeting Room at Exploration Commons at 50 East Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157.** Use of library meeting space does not constitute endorsement of this organization, this program, or its content by the Carroll County Public Library. The Public Hearing will be conducted in person. The hearing will be recorded and transcribed. Information related to parking is available at the following link: <https://mdewwp.page.link/PublicMeetings>.

People who wish to present information regarding the tentative determination may speak at the public hearing, submit written comments at the public hearing, or submit a written statement to the Department no later than **5 p.m. on June 26, 2026.** All comments will be considered in making a final determination. Comments received via any submission mechanism will be given equal weight.

Written comments can also be mailed to the **Maryland Department of the Environment, Water and Science Administration, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Ste. 455, Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1708, Attn.: Mr. Yen-Der Cheng, Chief, Municipal Permits Division** or emailed to **yen-der.cheng@maryland.gov**. The supporting information for the tentative determination, including the draft permit and fact sheet, may be reviewed by contacting Mr. Cheng at the above address or by telephone at (410) 537-3363 or 1-800-633-6101 to schedule an appointment. Copies of documents may be procured at a cost of \$0.36 per page.

Any hearing-impaired person may request an interpreter to be present at the public hearing by giving ten working days' notice to Mr. Cheng at the address or telephone number listed above.

*This meeting location is accessible to individuals with disabilities as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Individuals who require reasonable accommodation or a language interpreter to participate in the meeting should contact MDE by email at [mde.accommodations@maryland.gov](mailto:mde.accommodations@maryland.gov) or call 410-537-3152 (MD Relay TTY: 7-1-1) at least 5 business days in advance of the meeting.*

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