

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

NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION AND PUBLIC HEARING

Baltimore City

Application for State Discharge Permit 22DP0581, NPDES Permit MD0021555:

City of Baltimore, Department of Public Works, 200 North Holliday Street, Suite 600, Baltimore, MD 21202, applied for renewal of the permit to discharge an average of 180 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated municipal wastewater from the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) located at 8201 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21224, to the Back River through Outfall 001A, and to Bear Creek through Outfall 002A, both designated as Use II waters (non-shellfish harvesting), protected for the support of estuarine and marine aquatic life and water contact recreation.

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

At Outfall 001A for discharge up to 130 MGD to Back River:

BOD₅, 10 mg/l maximum monthly arithmetic mean, 15 mg/l maximum weekly arithmetic mean; Total Suspended Solid (TSS), 10 mg/l maximum monthly arithmetic mean, 15 mg/l maximum weekly arithmetic mean; BOD₅ and TSS percent removal efficiency, 85% minimum monthly average; Total ammonia nitrogen as N (Interim Limits), 1.4 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean and 12.1 mg/l daily maximum for summer period (5/1- 10/31), and 3.1 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean winter period (11/1- 4/30); Total ammonia nitrogen as N (Final Limits), 0.7 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean and 4.6 mg/l daily maximum for summer period (5/1- 9/30), and 2.4 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean winter period (11/1- 4/30); Total Phosphorus as P (TP), 0.20 mg/l maximum monthly arithmetic mean, 0.3 mg/l maximum weekly arithmetic mean; Dissolved Oxygen (DO), 5.0 mg/l minimum at any time, and 6.0 mg/l minimum weekly average during February 1 through May 31; E. coli, 126 MPN/100 ml maximum monthly geometric mean value till Enterococci, 35 MPN/100 ml maximum monthly geometric mean value becomes effective (no later than 12 months after the permit's effective date); pH maintained between 6.5 and 8.5; Total Residual Chlorine, 0.013 mg/l instantaneous maximum; and Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) acute limit of TU_{acute} < 1.00 maximum, and chronic limit of TU_{chronic} < 1.02 maximum. Per Back River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations, seasonal loadings (5/1-10/31) of 6,652 lbs/month, and yearly loadings of 79,277 lbs/year for TP; and seasonal loadings (5/1-10/31) of 99,782 lbs/month, and yearly loadings of 1,582,055 lbs/year for Total Nitrogen as N (TN); and yearly loadings of 48.5 grams/year of tPCBs shall also apply. Total ammonia nitrogen as N interim limits shall be applicable upon the discharge permit issuance and will remain in effect until the final effluent ammonia limits become

effective. Total ammonia nitrogen as N final limits shall be applicable twelve (12) months after the effective date of this discharge permit, and they will remain in effect for the rest of the permit cycle.

At Outfall 002A for discharge up to 50 MGD to Bear Creek (Baltimore Harbor):

BOD5, 20 mg/l maximum monthly arithmetic mean, 30 mg/l maximum weekly arithmetic mean from May 1 thru October 31, and 30 mg/l maximum monthly arithmetic mean, 45 mg/l maximum weekly arithmetic mean from November 1 thru April 30; Total Suspended Solid (TSS), 30 mg/l maximum monthly arithmetic mean, 45 mg/l maximum weekly arithmetic mean; BOD5 and TSS percent removal efficiency, 85% minimum monthly average; Total ammonia nitrogen as N (Interim Limits), 1.4 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean and 12.1 mg/l daily maximum for summer period (5/1-10/31), and 3.1 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean winter period (11/1- 4/30); Total ammonia nitrogen as N (Final Limits), 0.7 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean and 4.6 mg/l daily maximum for summer period (5/1- 9/30), and 2.4 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean winter period (11/1- 4/30); Total Phosphorus as P (TP), 0.20 mg/l maximum monthly arithmetic mean, 0.3 mg/l maximum weekly arithmetic mean; Dissolved Oxygen (DO), 5.0 mg/l minimum at any time, and 6.0 mg/l minimum weekly average during February 1 through May 31 ; E. coli, 126 MPN/100 ml maximum monthly geometric mean value till Enterococci, 35 MPN/100 ml maximum monthly geometric mean value becomes effective (no later than 12 months after the permit's effective date); and pH maintained between 6.5 and 8.5. Per Baltimore Harbor Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations, seasonal loadings (5/1-10/31) of 15,230 lbs/period, and yearly loadings of 30,459 lbs/year for TP; and seasonal loadings (5/1-10/31) of 304,590 lbs/period, and yearly loadings of 609,185 lbs/year for Total Nitrogen as N (TN); and yearly loadings of 18.66 grams/year of tPCBs shall also apply. Total ammonia nitrogen as N interim limits shall be applicable upon the discharge permit issuance and will remain in effect until the final effluent ammonia limits become effective. Total ammonia nitrogen as N final limits shall be applicable twelve (12) months after the effective date of this discharge permit, and they will remain in effect for the rest of the permit cycle.

At Monitoring Point (MP) 102A for discharge up to 180 MGD:

TN, 2,192,800 lbs/yr maximum annual loading rate; TP, 109,600 lbs/yr maximum annual loading rate; and TSS, 8,548,254 lbs/yr maximum annual loading rate.

The permit also has conditions covering Wastewater Capacity Management, Biomonitoring, Pretreatment, Climate Change Resiliency Requirements, Maintenance of Laboratory Certification Records, Testing and Analysis of Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS), the Compliance Schedule for Meeting Total Ammonia Nitrogen as N Effluent Limits, Monitoring, Reporting and Minimization for Polychlorinated Bi Phenyls (PCBs), Operations and Maintenance Guidance Checklist Requirements, Wastewater

Treatment Plant Operator Licensing and Certification, and the Protection of Water Contact Recreational Activity in the Receiving Waters.

This permit is in conformance with the "Chesapeake Bay TMDL for Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sediment" approved by USEPA on December 29, 2010.

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 "22DP0581" 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 of the above permit for **Thursday, May 15, 2025**, at **5:30 p.m.** at the **Hawks Pleasure Club, 430 Riverside Dr, Essex, MD 21221.**

To enhance participation in this public hearing, please use this link to register online by following the instructions on the MDE webpage:
<https://mdewwp.page.link/PublicMeetings>.

The hearing will be recorded and transcribed. Persons 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 May 22, 2025**. All comments will be considered in making a final determination. Comments received via any submission mechanism will all be given equal weight.

Written comments can also be sent via mail to the **Maryland Department of the Environment, Water and Science Administration, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1708, Attn.: Mr. Yen-Der Cheng, Chief, Municipal Permits Division** or via email 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 hearing by giving ten working days notice to Mr. Cheng at the address or telephone number listed above.

To Be Published on: **April 15 and 22, 2025**

Newspaper: **The Sun**