

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Frederick County

Application for State Discharge Permit 23DP0801, NDPES Permit MD0021610:

City of Frederick Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) applied for renewal of the permit to discharge an average of 8 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated wastewater from the City of Frederick WWTP located at 100 Treatment Plant Road, Frederick MD 21701, to the Chesapeake Bay, designated as Use IV-P water, which is protected for holding or supporting adult trout for put-and-take fishing, and as a public water supply. The Department is proposing a Tentative Determination (TD) to reissue the discharge permit with the following effluent limitations: BOD₅, 12 mg/l maximum monthly average and 18 mg/l maximum weekly average (5/1 to 5/31), 8.7 mg/l maximum monthly average and 13 mg/l maximum weekly average (6/1 to 10/31) and 29 mg/l maximum monthly average and 39 mg/l maximum weekly average (11/1 to 4/30); Total Suspended Solids, 26 mg/l maximum monthly average and 39 mg/l maximum weekly average and 632,320 pounds/year maximum annual load; BOD₅ and TSS Percent Removed, 85 % minimum monthly average; Total Phosphorus (TP) as P, 7,309 pounds/year maximum annual load; Total Nitrogen (TN) as N, 97,458 pounds/year net maximum annual load; E. coli, 126 MPN/100 ml monthly geometric mean value; Total Residual Chlorine, nondetectable level of less than 0.1 mg/l maximum (when chlorine compounds are used in wastewater treatment); Dissolved Oxygen, 5.0 mg/l at any time (year-round) and 7.0 mg/l daily average (5/1 – 10/31); and pH maintained between 6.5 and 8.5.

The annual maximum loading rate limits for TN, TP, and TSS are in conformance with the Chesapeake Bay TMDL for Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sediment, accepted by EPA on 12/29/2010. The TP limit in the permit is in conformance with the Phosphorous TMDL for the Monocacy River approved by EPA on 5/22/2013. The E. coli limit in the permit is in conformance with the Fecal Coliform TMDL for the Monocacy River approved by EPA on 12/3/2009. The TSS limit in the permit is in conformance with the Sediment TMDL for the Monocacy River approved by EPA on 3/17/2009.

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 this facility. The EJ Score is 89.1. This score has been calculated considering a combination of the

following factors: Pollution Burden Exposure Percentile, Pollution Burden Environmental Effects Percentile, and Sensitive Population 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 "23DP0801" 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 received a request for a public hearing on the tentative determination for the above permit and has scheduled the hearing for **Wednesday, March 11, 2026**, at **05:30 PM**. The Public Hearing will be conducted **virtually** through the **Google Meet** platform, with an option to listen only by phone. To participate online, you must register using the following link: **<https://mdewwp.page.link/PublicMeetings>**. Alternatively, those who want to monitor the virtual hearing in listen-only mode can call **+1 609-800-2196** and enter this **PIN: 930599504#**. 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 March 16, 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 Blvd., 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.

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