

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING FOR PARTICIPANTS**

### **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, REISSUANCE OF NATIONWIDE PERMITS 20-WQC-0050**

***A virtual public hearing has been pre-scheduled for December 15, 2020, 6:00 PM. (The pre-scheduled public hearing will be cancelled if no hearing requests are received by 5:00 p.m. on November 23, 2020.)***

- 1. What is a virtual hearing?** A virtual hearing is an on-line public informational hearing using a web conference platform allowing for public hearings to occur without a physical location. The virtual hearing provides the same opportunities as an in-person hearing, providing interested persons the opportunity to present information, comments or views concerning an application for a particular project.
- 2. Do I need to register in order to attend the hearing?** Registration is not mandatory but highly recommended if you wish to provide a verbal statement. Registration will allow for better preparation and service throughout the hearing process. The information provided during registration will be used to notify you of our final decision and provide you with a copy of the hearing report.
- 3. What should I do if I need ADA accommodations?** Notify the assigned project manager at least 14 days prior to the hearing with the specific accommodation request.
- 4. Will the project presentation be available online?** Relevant public hearing materials will be posted online at <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/Nationwide-Permit-Reissuance.aspx> at least 14 days prior to the hearing. If requested at least 7 days prior to the hearing date, hard copies of the materials will be provided to the requesting party. These materials will remain posted on-line until at least the close of the comment period.
- 5. Is there a size limit on submission material?** Yes, submitted material should not be greater than 75 MB.
- 6. How do I participate?** Registration is not mandatory but highly recommended if you wish to provide a verbal statement. Registration sign-up can be located at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8686206041216401932> or contacting the assigned MDE Project Manager, Denise Clearwater by email [denise.clearwater@maryland.gov](mailto:denise.clearwater@maryland.gov) or by Telephone No.(410) 537-3781. In order to join the hearing from your computer, tablet or smartphone participants should register at

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8686206041216401932> and directions will be electronically forwarded to the email provided. If internet service is not available, the participant may call **1-877-309-2071** and then enter access code **692-807-654** to hear the public hearing. Please note telephoning via a landline will not allow participants to provide oral statements during the hearing but will only provide the ability to listen. Information and/or testimony can be presented by participants during the hearing if connected by the internet or, if provided to MDE by December 8, 2020 at 5:00 pm MDE can read on behalf of the participant.

**7. *Will I be able to provide testimony or ask questions during the hearing?***

The applicant and any interested person will have an opportunity at the hearing to make statements for or against granting a water quality certification if using the virtual platform. Participating by telephone using a landline will not allow participants to provide oral statements during the hearing but will only provide the ability to listen. Information and/or testimony can be presented by participants during the hearing if connected by the internet or, if provided to MDE by December 8, 2020 MDE can read on behalf of the participant. There is not a question and answer portion to the public hearing for a water quality certification.

**8. *Will I be able to present material during my statement at the public informational hearing?*** No, Any presentation material can be provided before and/or after the hearing date up to 14 days to MDE to be included in the record.

**9. *Can my statement be read by the hearing officer or someone else during the hearing?*** The hearing officer can read your statement during the hearing on your behalf if provided to MDE by December 8, 2020. However, you must be present at the hearing in order for your materials and statement to be read.

**10. *How can I submit my statement or questions in advance of hearing?***

Provide questions and/or testimony to Maryland Department of the Environment, Wetlands and Waterways Program, Denise Clearwater, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD, 21230 or by email [denise.clearwater@maryland.gov](mailto:denise.clearwater@maryland.gov) or Telephone No. (410) 537-3781.

**11. *Is there a time limit on my statement during the public informational hearing?*** In order that all persons wishing to participate may have an opportunity to make statements, comments will be limited to 3 minutes. Any statements to be read by MDE during the hearing also need to be limited to 3 minutes.

**12. *If I encounter technical problems during the hearing will technical support be provided during the hearing?*** Yes. If you experience any technical difficulties use the chat feature in the virtual platform to notify of any problems and the MDE staff will problem shoot your challenges. A participant may also call **1-877-309-2071** and then enter access code **692-807-654** to hear the public hearing. Please note telephoning via a landline will not allow participants to

provide oral statements during the hearing but will provide the ability to listen. Comments, information and testimony can be provided after the hearing to Maryland Department of the Environment, Wetlands and Waterways Program, Denise Clearwater, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD, 21230 or by email [denise.clearwater@maryland.gov](mailto:denise.clearwater@maryland.gov) or Telephone No.(410) 537-3781 up to 14 days after the hearing.

**13. *What if I am not able to connect to the hearing via computer or lose internet/phone during the hearing?*** The applicant's presentation will be available for review on MDE's website during the comment period and at least 14 days after the hearing. Materials and comments can be provided to MDE up to 14 days after the hearing date to be included in the record.

**14. *Will I be able to provide comments after the hearing?*** The formal hearing record will remain open for 14 days after the hearing date for comments to be received. All comments, whether they were presented during the hearing or received after the hearing, are given the same review consideration. Directions on submitting comments will be provided at the conclusion of the hearing and in addition, will be posted at:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/Nationwide-Permit-Reissuance.aspx>

**15. *How long will it take for the Department to make the decision and will I be notified of the Department's decision after the hearing?***

At the close of the comment period, the Department will review all the information received and make a determination if the request is complete or if more information or revisions are necessary from the applicant. A decision on the water quality certification will need to be made within the federally determined reasonable period of time, that shall not exceed one year from the date of the request. All individuals who submitted written comments to the Department and/or registered at the Public Hearing will be notified regarding the Department's decision in the Report and Recommendation.

**16. *Can I get a copy of the hearing transcript?***

A transcript will be provided to those who request the official record.

**17. *How do I get notice if the hearing is cancelled?***

It will be posted at this link:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/Nationwide-Permit-Reissuance.aspx>

And if you register with an email, an email notification will be sent notifying of the cancellation.