

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION
1800 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

Public Notice
Notice of Public Informational Hearing
20-WQC-0050
Reissuance of Nationwide Permits

Reviewer: Denise Clearwater

Public Notice Period:

Notice for Public Comment October 23, 2020 - November 23, 2020 and Notice of Hearing
December 15, 2020

Location: State of Maryland

Waterway: Tidal and nontidal waters and wetlands meeting the definition of Waters of the
United States in the State of Maryland

Public Notice Description: The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is taking public comment and requests for a hearing on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Reissuance of Nationwide Permits from October 23, 2020 - November 23, 2020 at 5 p.m. for the project as described below. All comments and requests should be sent to Ms. Denise Clearwater at the contact information below. A virtual public hearing is being pre-scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on December 15, 2020 for only the proposed work in the draft Nationwide Permits and request for Water Quality Certification and will only be held if one is requested by the public during the open public comment period from October 23, 2020 – November 23, 2020 by 5:00 p.m. The pre-scheduled public hearing will be cancelled if no hearing requests are received by 5:00 p.m. on November 23, 2020. The purpose of the public notice and hearing (if held) is to receive public comments, gather information and hear testimony to assist the Department in making a determination regarding a request for a Maryland Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Consistency Determination. To view MDE's Public Notice and associated materials for this project, please visit the following link:

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

Registering to view or participate in the hearing is not considered a request for the Department to hold a hearing. In order to view or participate in the hearing, participants are asked to register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8686206041216401932>.

Directions will be electronically forwarded to the email provided, as will any cancellation notices. 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. Information or statements can be presented by participants during the hearing or, if provided to MDE by December 8, 2020 by 5:00 p.m., MDE can present the information. In the event the hearing is cancelled, information/statements received will be entered into the record as public comment. Statements may not be longer than three minutes in length. Please check the Department's website for

updates on the hearing status at the following link:

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

Contact Information: Maryland Department of the Environment, Wetlands and Waterways Program, Denise Clearwater, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD, 21230 or by email denise.clearwater@maryland.gov or Telephone No.(410) 537-3781.

Project Description: U.S.ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, REISSUANCE OF NATIONWIDE PERMITS- On September 15, 2020, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published in the Federal Register its proposal to reissue the 52 existing nationwide permits (NWP) and issue five new NWP. The Water and Science Administration is reviewing a request for a State Water Quality Certification (WQC) and concurrence with the Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination (CZMA). Pursuant to COMAR 26.08.02, Regulation .10 Water Quality Certification and 15 C.F.R. Section 930.42 Subpart C of the Coastal Zone Management Act., the Maryland Department of the Environment is required to give public notice. The purpose of the water quality certification is to advise the federal agency as to whether the permitted activity will or will not comply with Maryland's water quality standards. The purpose of the consistency determination is to advise the federal agency as to whether the federal activity will be consistent with Maryland Enforceable Policies approved under Maryland's Coastal Zone Management Program. The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described in the link below and provide opportunity to request a public hearing.

The draft Nationwide Permits and draft regional conditions and associated documents may be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/Public-Notice-View/Article/2364484/spn-20-62-nationwide-permit-reissuance-request-for-comments/>