

NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING

An in-person public hearing for the request for Water Quality Certification and Wetlands License is planned to be held, if one is requested by the public during the open public comment period from October 22, 2021 to November 29, 2021 by 5:00 pm. To view the Department's Public Notice soliciting comments on this project, please visit the following link and select October 15th or November 1st: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/WetlandsandWaterways/AboutWetlands/Pages/Publicinformation.aspx>. The purpose of the hearing is to gather information and hear testimony to assist the Department in making a determination for a Maryland Water Quality Certification on the request detailed below. *A hearing will not be held if one is not requested.* A public hearing request may be provided in writing to the Maryland Department of the Environment, Wetlands and Waterways Program, Mary Phipps-Dickerson, 407 Race Street, Cambridge, MD, 21613 or by email at mary.phipps-dickerson@maryland.gov or Telephone No. (410) 901-4033. **The informational public hearing is pre-scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on January 6, 2022 at the Madison Volunteer Fire Department, 1154 Taylors Island Rd, Madison, MD 21648.** A poster session/display will be available from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM where project drawings can be reviewed and MDOT Maryland Port Administration representatives will also be available to answer questions. *The pre-scheduled hearing will be cancelled if no hearing requests are received by 5 pm on November 29, 2021. Please check the Department's website for updates on the hearing status at the following link:* <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/BarrenIsland.aspx>

21-WL-0640 / 21-WQC-0331/MDOT Maryland Port Administration, Amanda Peñafiel, World Trade Center, 401 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202 has applied to restore a remote island habitat at Barren Island, which is located in Dorchester County adjacent to Upper Hoopers Island. The project is the smaller portion of the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project and will include the restoration of approximately 83 acres of wetlands, construction of approximately 13,023 linear feet of new and modified stone sills and 4,620 linear feet of segmented breakwater to immediately provide increased protection to the eroding Barren Island and to the potential submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat to the east of Barren Island, and installation of 2 bird nesting habitat islands (approximately 8.5 acres total). Approximately 52,500 cubic yards of material that is unsuitable for construction foundation will be dredged from the northeast Barren Island stone sill location to an approximate depth of 7 feet and will be placed hydraulically or mechanically within the confined area behind the constructed stone sills at Barren Island. Approximately 429,000 cubic yards of authorized maintenance material dredged from small local federal navigation channels will be placed behind the confining stone sills up to the mean high water elevation to construct the wetlands. Wetlands will include low and high marsh plantings as well as intertidal mudflats. During final wetland planning, current conditions will be evaluated with respect to sea level rise projections and determinations of sustainable marsh elevations to identify high to low marsh ratios.