

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

NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION AND PUBLIC HEARING

Baltimore City

Application for State Discharge Permit 21DP0580, NPDES Permit MD0021601:

Baltimore City Department of Public Works, 200 Holliday Street, Suite 600, Baltimore, MD 21202, applied for renewal of the permit to discharge an average of 81 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated municipal wastewater from the Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), located at 3501 Asiatic Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21226, into the Patapsco River. The Patapsco River is designated as Use II, tidal waters. It is protected for estuarine and marine aquatic life and water contact recreation (migratory spawning and nursery use from February 1 to May 31, shallow water submerged vegetation use from April 1 to October 31, and open water fresh and shellfish use, except for shellfish harvesting – COMAR 26.08.02.08 K (2) (c) – from January 1 to December 31).

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 73 MGD:

BOD5, 30 mg/l maximum monthly arithmetic mean, 45 mg/l maximum weekly arithmetic mean; Total Suspended Solid (TSS), 30 mg/l maximum monthly arithmetic mean, 45 mg/l maximum weekly arithmetic mean and 6,669,776 lbs/yr maximum annual load; BOD5 and TSS percent removal efficiency, 85% minimum monthly average; Total ammonia nitrogen as N, 4.9 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean and 21.6 mg/l daily maximum for summer period (5/1- 10/31), and 8.0 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean and no daily maximum for winter period (11/1- 4/30).

At Outfall 001B for discharge up to 81 MGD, applicable six months after the permit's effective date:

BOD5, 27 mg/l maximum monthly arithmetic mean, 40 mg/l maximum weekly arithmetic mean; Total Suspended Solid (TSS), 27 mg/l maximum monthly arithmetic mean, 40 mg/l maximum weekly arithmetic mean and 6,669,776 lbs/yr maximum annual load; BOD5 and TSS percent removal efficiency, 85% minimum monthly average; Total ammonia nitrogen as N, 4.7 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean and 18.7 mg/l daily maximum for summer period (5/1- 10/31), and 7.9 mg/l monthly arithmetic mean and no daily maximum for winter period (11/1- 4/30).

Applicable for both 73 and 81 MGD effluent limits:

Enterococci, 35 MPN/100 ml maximum monthly geometric mean concentration; Dissolved Oxygen (DO), 5.0mg/l minimum any time, 6.0 mg/l minimum weekly average for period (2/1-5/31); pH maintained between 6.0 and 8.5; Total residual chlorine (if chlorine or any chlorine-containing compound is used in any treatment process), non-detectable level. Per Baltimore Harbor Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations, seasonal loadings of 33,330

lbs of total phosphorus and 333,330 lbs of total nitrogen (5/1-10/31) and yearly loading of 27.20 grams/yr of tPCBs shall apply. Per Chesapeake Bay TMDL, a total phosphorus load of 66,700 lbs/yr and a total nitrogen load of 889,300 lbs/yr shall also apply.

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 Department has scheduled a public hearing for **Thursday, June 12th, 2025** from **6pm – 8:30pm** for the tentative determination of the above permit. The hearing will be held at the **Curtis Bay Recreation Center, 1630 Filbert Street, Baltimore, MD 21226**.

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 "21DP0580" 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.

To enhance participation in this public hearing, please use the 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 pm on June 20, 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 MD 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 for \$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.

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Newspaper: **The Sun**