



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-9958-90-Region 3]

EPA-Mid-Atlantic Region III

Maryland Marine Sanitation Device Standard – Receipt of Petition

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice – Receipt of Petition.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a petition has been received from the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on behalf of the State of Maryland requesting a determination by the Regional Administrator, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Mid-Atlantic Region, that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for the Chester River, Kent and Queen Anne’s Counties, Maryland. EPA is requesting comments on this petition and whether EPA should designate the Chester River and its tributaries as a No Discharge Zone as provided in the Clean Water Act. The petition is available upon request from EPA (at the email address below) or at http://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Documents/FINAL_CRA_NDZ_APPLICATION.pdf.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing to EPA on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Michael D. Hoffmann, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency – Mid-Atlantic Region, 1650 Arch Street, Mail Code 3WP10, Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029, or emailed to Hoffmann.michael@epa.gov. Only written comment will be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael D. Hoffmann, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency – Mid-Atlantic Region. Telephone: (215) 814-2716, Fax number: (215) 814-2301; email address: Hoffmann.michael@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been received from the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on behalf of the State of Maryland requesting a determination by the Regional Administrator, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mid-Atlantic Region pursuant to Section 312(f)(3) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1322(f)(3), that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels is reasonably available for the entirety of the Chester River and its tributaries. EPA is requesting comments on this petition and whether EPA should designate the Chester River as a No Discharge Zone as provided in that provision of the Clean Water Act. The petition is available upon request from EPA (at the address above) or at http://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Documents/FINAL_CRA_NDZ_APPLICATION.pdf.

The State of Maryland makes this request as part of its application for a No Discharge Zone which will prohibit the discharge of sewage from vessels into the Chester River and its tributaries. The delineation of the proposed No Discharge Zone of the Chester River and its tributaries from the Chesapeake Bay will begin at 39° 8'54.48"N, 76° 16'37.11"W and extend down to 39° 2'23.56"N, 76° 18'8.89"W. From there it will continue east throughout any navigable waters including all tributaries and bays. Included within this zone are Lankford Bay, Corsica River, Southeast Creek, and many smaller tributaries.

The State of Maryland has certified that there are nineteen stationary and four mobile pumpout stations located at 17 marinas or docks throughout the Chester River. Sixteen of the nineteen stationary units also have a method to empty portable toilets. All of the pump-out stations noted were funded with grants administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and all

comply with local and state sanitary permitting requirements. A list of the facilities, phone numbers, locations, and hours of operation can be found below.

LIST OF FACILITIES WITH PUMPOUTS IN THE PROPOSED NO DISCHARGE ZONE				
Pumpout Facility	Operating Hours in Season	Mean Low Water Depth (ft)	Phone Number	Address
Bayside Landing Park	24-7	5	410-778-2600	20927 Bayside Avenue Rock Hall, MD 21661
Castle Harbor Marina	24-7	6	410-643-5599	301 Tackle Cir Chester, MD 21619
Chestertown Marina	9:00-5:00 daily	10	410-778-0500	207 S Water St Chestertown, MD 21620
Gratitude Marina	9:00-5:00 daily	7	410-639-7011	5924 Lawton Ave Rock Hall, MD 21661
Haven Harbor Marina	8:00-5:00 daily	6	410-778-6687	20880 Rock Hall Ave Rock Hall, MD 21661
Kennersley Point Marina	8:00-5:00 daily	3	410-758-2394	223 Marina Ln Church Hill, MD 21623
Lankford Bay Marina	24-7	7	410-778-1414	23002 McKinleyville Rd Rock Hall, MD 21661
Long Cove Marina	8:00-5:00 daily	6	410-778-6777	22589 Hudson Rd Rock Hall, MD 21661
Mears Point Marina	8:30-7:00 daily	6	410- 827-8888	428 Kent Narrow Way N Grasonville, MD 21638
North Point Marina	9:00-5:00 daily	6	410-639-2907	5639 Walnut St Rock Hall, MD 21661
Osprey Point Marina	24-7	6	410-639-2194	20786 Rock Hall Ave Rock Hall, MD 21661
Piney Narrows Yacht Haven	8:30-6:30 daily	8	410- 643-6600	500 Piney Narrows Rd Chester, MD 21619
Queenstown Harbor Community Pier	24-7	6	301-343-5487	252 Harbor Lane Queenstown, MD 21658
Rock Hall Landing Marina	9:00-5:00 daily	5	410-639-2224	5657 S Hawthorne Ave Rock Hall, MD 21661
Sailing Emporium	8:00-5:00 daily	8	410-778-1342	21144 Green Lane Rock Hall, MD 21661
Spring Cove Marina	24-7	5	410-639-2110	21035 Spring Cove Rd Rock Hall, MD 21661
Swan Creek Marina	24-7	7	410-639-7813	6043 Lawton Ave Rock Hall, MD 21661

The State of Maryland has provided documentation indicating that the total vessel population is estimated to be between 2,705 and 4,700 boats in the proposed area. Using the higher of those estimates, approximately 3,196 are identified as recreational vessels, 1,151 are identified as commercial vessels, and 353 are classified as “Other.” The estimated vessel population in all of the affected areas is based on length: the most conservative estimates provided by the State of Maryland suggest that there are no vessels less than 16 feet in length, 15 vessels between 16 feet and 25 feet in length, 3,034 vessels between 25 feet and 40 feet in length, and 1,651 vessels greater than 40 feet in length. Based on the number and size of vessels and EPA guidance for state and local officials, the estimated number of vessels requiring pumpout facilities in the Chester River during peak occupancy is 1,207.

In their application, Maryland has certified that the Chester River and its tributaries need greater environmental protection and enhancement of the waters. Maryland has classified the Chester River and the Chesapeake Bay which it drains into, as impaired for not meeting applicable state water quality standards. One hundred percent (100%) of the Chester River is considered impaired by either nutrients, sediment, bacteria or a combination thereof. The counties of Kent and Queen Anne’s that surround the Chester River rank as the top two Maryland waterfront counties in terms of beach closings by percentage of beaches. All beach closings were due to elevated bacteria as evidenced by high levels of enterococci.

The Chester River is an important economic driver for the region, providing jobs and revenue through tourism, commercial and recreational fishing for fish and shellfish, boating, and more. Many people use the Chester River for hunting, cruising, nature observation, sightseeing, waterskiing, tubing, racing, and swimming. Based on a study by the Sage Policy Group in 2012, cited in the application, the Chester River supports \$86 million in annual local economic activity,

900 jobs, and \$26.7 million in annual labor income.

Dated: March 10, 2017.

Cecil Rodrigues,

Acting Regional Administrator, Mid-Atlantic Region.

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