

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that would allow the continued operation of the Smith Mountain Hydroelectric Project in Bedford, Campbell, Franklin, Pittsylvania, and Roanoke Counties, Virginia. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: March 6, 2025 to April 4, 2025.** **PERMIT NAME:** Virginia Water Protection Permit issued by DEQ pursuant to applicable water laws and regulations. **APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER:** Appalachian Power Company; 40 Franklin Road SW, Roanoke, VA, 24011; VWPP Permit No. 24-1547. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Appalachian Power Company has applied for the reissuance of a VWP permit for the Smith Mountain Lake Hydroelectric Project. The project is located on the Roanoke River at River Mile 314 through River Mile 296, and spans Bedford, Campbell, Franklin, Pittsylvania, and Roanoke Counties in Virginia. The proposed activity includes diverting surface water through two powerhouses at the Smith Mountain Lake Dam and the Leesville Dam and the pumping of water from the Leesville Lake to Smith Mountain Lake for the purposes of hydroelectric power generation and storage. The Project operates so all water diverted will flow through the powerhouses or the spillways and is returned to the Roanoke River, Smith Mountain Lake, or Leesville Lake. No new construction or jurisdictional impacts are proposed as part of the Project. The proposed activity would affect Smith Mountain Lake, Leesville Lake, and the Roanoke River in the Roanoke watershed. DEQ's tentative decision is to issue the permit. **HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING:** DEQ accepts written comments and requests for public hearing by hand-delivery, e-mail, or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses or email addresses of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit. **CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Kathryne Dobbie, Blue Ridge Regional Office, 901 Russell Drive, Salem, Virginia, 24153; Phone: 804-659-1727; E-mail: Kathryne.dobbie@deq.virginia.gov. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.