Environmental & Intergovernmental Reviews

In cooperation with State Agencies, PlanRVA routinely is requested to provide environmental and intergovernmental reviews. PlanRVA staff circulate the review requests among member locality staff for comments and questions prior to submitting a response to the requesting State Agency.

Environmental reviews can include:

- Environmental Assessments and Impact Reports - Virginia code requires state agencies to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for each major state project.
- Coastal Consistency Determinations and Certifications - Due to receipt of Federal funds or permits, proposed projects must prove consistency with the enforceable policies of Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program.
- Groundwater Withdrawal Permits - PlanRVA staff receives notice of Groundwater Withdrawal Permits in the Eastern Virginia Ground Water Management Area (GWMA). The eastern portion of PlanRVA is located in the Eastern Virginia GWMA. All jurisdictions in the Eastern Virginia GWMA are notified of pending permits as part of this process, therefore PlanRVA receives review requests for projects outside of the Richmond region. For more information about the Eastern Virginia GWMA see https://www.deq.virginia.gov/permits/water/water-withdrawal .
- Virginia Water Protection (VWP) Permits - DEQ issues VWP Permits for activities related to the quality of surface waters in the Commonwealth including the filling, dredging, draining or excavation of wetlands, streams, or other state waters. Surface water withdrawals are also permitted through VWP permits.
- Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) Permits – DEQ issues VPDES permits to any person who discharges any pollutant into surface waters of the Commonwealth from a point source.

Intergovernmental reviews can include:

- State Agency grant applications for Federal funding, including:
  - CERCLA grant funds from US EPA (Superfund programming and site remediation)
  - Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
  - Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) State Clean Diesel funds from US EPA
  - Capitalization funds for the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund for wastewater treatment facility improvements from US EPA
- FHWA Section 5310 funding for projects involving transit and mobility enhancements for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

For additional information on the reviews, please go to the following: https://planrva.org/environment/reviews/.

Environmental Reviews Quarterly Board Report

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

Agency	Review Title	Review type	Locality/ Area	Summary
DEQ	GWI000505 Belle Haven	GWP	Fairfax	Belle Haven Country Club has applied for a reissuance of a permit for golf course irrigation. The permit would authorize the applicant to withdraw a maximum of 27,734,000 gallons per year and 10,540,000 gallons per month from the Potomac aquifer. The ground water withdrawal will support golf course irrigation. The top of the Potomac aquifer at the proposed withdrawal site was determined to be 152 feet below land surface. An aquifer is a body of rock or layer of sediment in the ground in which ground water is stored and transported. DEQ has made a tentative decision to issue the permit. The draft permit can be viewed at https://www.deq.virginia.gov/news-info/shortcuts/publicnotices/water/water-withdrawal
DEQ	HUD Stonebridge Project, DEQ 26-134F	EIR	Chesterfield	The subject property is proposed for development with the Stonebridge multifamily apartment complex. The development will consist of two (2) four-story apartment buildings housing a total of 340 residential units. Additional improvements will consist of a clubhouse, basketball courts and recreational area, paved surface parking areas, and community landscaping. Based on the proposed development plan, AEI has determined that the proposed Stonebridge Project will not have an adverse effect on the coastal uses and/or natural resources of Virginia that are addressed by the twelve (12) enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM).
DEQ	DCR Pocahontas State Park Bathhouse Renovations, DEQ 26-133S	EIR	Chesterfield	The Pocahontas State Park Bathhouse Renovations project involves the renovation of three bathhouses within Pocahontas State Park, for the addition of a family restroom & shower, accessible parking & route to the bath house, and replacing the aging materials and systems within the bathhouses. ECS conducted a review of publicly available information, utilized information provided by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Division of Planning and Recreation Resources, and made a visit to the project site to assist with the preparation of this EIR. Provided mitigation measures and proper development best practices are followed, the proposed project does not appear to have any long-term direct or indirect anticipated impacts to the environment. The project should not have any permanent impact on air quality or water quality. Given its small footprint and proposed use, it is not anticipated to consume significant land or water resources. No long-term demands on other natural resources are expected. As such, long-term irreversible environmental changes due to this proposed project are not expected. • ECS recommends submitting a project specific review to the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) in order to determine if adverse affects on historic resources may result from the proposed action. • Based on the results of the Determination Key, tree clearing must occur outside of the Pup Season (April to August of any year) for the Tricolored bat.

Agency	Review Title	Review type	Locality/ Area	Summary
DEQ	Operational Improvements at Existing USDVA National Cemeteries	Other	Virginia	The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration is preparing a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for typical operational-improvement projects within the existing boundaries of VA National Cemeteries. The PEA is intended to provide a National Environmental Policy Act review pathway for projects anticipated to have less-than-significant environmental effects. Potential improvements include developing new burial-interment plots and associated infrastructure; repairing, replacing, or improving buildings, utilities, and other supporting infrastructure; and demolishing utilitarian buildings and structures. The purpose is to accommodate interment requests and maintain sufficient facilities and infrastructure for eligible Veterans, spouses, dependents, and cemetery staff. VA initially conducted scoping in December 2023, paused the project during 2024, and has now resumed the NEPA process. The proposed action remains unchanged, but the PEA will incorporate VA's updated NEPA implementing procedures. VA anticipates publishing the final PEA in fall 2026. Virginia DEQ's Office of Environmental Impact Review has advised that future NEPA and, where applicable, Coastal Zone Management Act federal-consistency materials should be submitted for coordinated state review with adequate project detail, mapping, and preferably GIS shapefiles. DEQ requests a minimum 60-day review period for those future documents.
DEQ	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs State Home Construction Grant Program	EA	Virginia	The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is preparing a Programmatic Environmental Assessment for its State Home Construction Grant Program. The program provides funding to eligible state partners for construction, renovation, and repair of state-owned and operated nursing homes, domiciliary residences, adult day health care facilities, and other eligible State Home facilities. The proposed action is intended to help states provide sufficient long-term care capacity for eligible Veterans and their families. VA is preparing the programmatic review to assess potential environmental impacts from typical grant-funded projects and to establish an efficient National Environmental Policy Act review pathway for projects expected to have less-than-significant impacts. NOTES: VA requested comments on the scope of analysis, potential alternatives, and relevant information within 30 days of the September 15, 2026 notice. That comment period ended October 15, 2026. The attached DEQ scoping response requests that future NEPA and, where applicable, federal consistency materials be submitted to DEQ's Office of Environmental Impact Review and that VA allow a minimum 60-day coordinated state review period.