SCDHEC Bureau of Air Quality Update

Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments

August 27, 2014

Air Permitting Updates

- Construction Permitting Exemptions List
  - Updated, July 2014
  - http://www.scdhec.gov/Environment/docs/NewExemptions.pdf
- General / Registration Permits
  - Standardized permit providing consistency
  - Simplified application and permit issuance
  - Pre-determined equipment and emission limit for specific permit categories
  - http://www.scdhec.gov/Environment/AirQuality/
- For additional information, contact Alyson Hayes at 803-898-3836.

Ozone

- 1. U.S. District Court for Northern District of California ordered that EPA issue a proposed ozone NAAQS by December 1, 2014. EPA has not appealed this ruling.
- 2. When the proposed standard is released, we will be in a position to look over our 2012-13-14 ozone data and have a good idea where South Carolina's counties and metro areas stand in meeting the forthcoming ozone NAAQS.
- 3. Assuming no delays (see #4 below) the final ozone NAAQS is to be published on October 1, 2015. South Carolina's recommended area designations are due to EPA one year after the NAAQS is finalized. Then EPA has to do its own analysis, and make designations 1-2 years later.
- 4. There is likely to be litigation no matter where the proposed standard is set, which will stretch out the implementation time.

Climate Action Plan and Clean Power Plan Proposal 111(d)

- On June 2, 2014, at the direction of President Obama, and after an unprecedented outreach effort, the EPA released the Clean Power Plan [111(d)] proposal, under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act.

- Comments are due 10/16

- More information located at: www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/Air/cleanpower/

Breath Better “B2”

- *Working on a Grant from the SC Energy office*
- *A great way for schools to participate in voluntary anti-idling program*
- MANY schools participating in the Central Midlands and the Upstate.
- www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/K12SchoolsStudentsTeachers/B2BreatheBetterProgram/OverviewB2/

Spare the Air Awards

- **Purpose** To recognize environmental leaders (i.e., companies, groups, communities, schools, local governments and individuals) that have made a voluntary commitment to promote and practice air quality improvement in South Carolina. Those environmental leaders nominated should demonstrate continuous environmental improvement through such practices as energy conservation, behavioral modifications, and other strategies to improve air quality.

- **Goals:**
- To promote a healthier environment through air quality initiatives that are sustainable and replicable,
- To educate, build awareness, and motivate others to make better decisions about the environment through air quality improvements,
- To encourage positive behavioral changes that improve air quality,
- To strengthen and build partnerships with businesses, organizations and the citizens of South Carolina to improve air quality.
- ***Nominations in the Fall.***

Webinar

- **Date & Time**
- Thursday, September 18th, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EST
- **Topic**
- The North Carolina Plug-in Electric Vehicle (NCPEV) Taskforce is hosting a free webinar on the latest information about electric buses from industry leaders. The presentations will include specifics on the development and benefits of electric buses and how they are being integrated into fleets.
- **Presenters**
- Dale Hill, **Founder of Proterra** - A world leader in the design and manufacture of zero-emission vehicles that enable bus fleet operators to reduce operating costs and deliver clean, quiet transportation to the community.
- Michael Austin, **Vice President at BYD America -** An innovative independent national auto brand that leads the field of electric vehicles with unique technologies.
- Ward Thomas, **Transportation Operations at Stanford University –** The Stanford Marguerite, the university's transit service, currently operates thirteen 40-foot electric buses on and off campus, providing free service for faculty, staff, students and the surrounding community.

- **Questions:** Contact Tyler Bray at 919-857-9038 or tbray@advancedenergy.org

North Augusta Park & Ride

- *200+ parking spaces*
- *LED lighting*
- *Rain gardens*
- *Video surveillance*
- *1.6 million dollar project funded by North Augusta and the SCDOT.*
- *To be used by commuters and workers from nearby industry.*

North Augusta Park and Ride

Here are some great **Native Plant Options** to pick out when you are planning your rain garden!

Joe-Pye Weed
Eutrochium purpureum

Swamp Sunflower
Helianthus angustifolius

Switchgrass
Panicum virgatum

Bushy St. John's Wort
Hypericum densiflorum

The North Augusta Park and Ride Facility was a joint effort between the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), the City of North Augusta, and the Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS), Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Park and Ride lots provide an attractive alternative to many commuters who wish to avoid traffic congestion and save on fuel and maintenance costs. The North Augusta Park and Ride facility was constructed in 2014 and includes over 200 vehicle parking spaces. They help reduce automobile Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by providing a clean and safe meeting location for carpools, vanpools and bus service. The North Augusta Park and Ride Facility was designed with a Low Impact Development (LID) approach and includes two rain gardens and energy efficient light emitting diode (LED) lighting. LED Lighting is estimated to cost 70% less to maintain than traditional lighting choices.

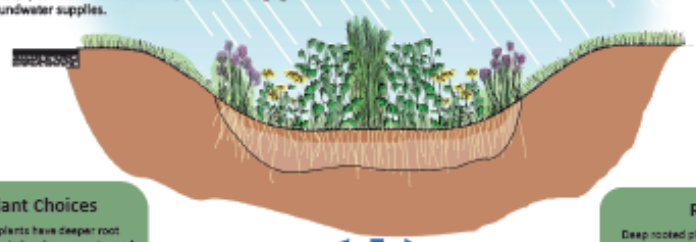
Rain Gardens Have Many Benefits

What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a landscaped, shallow depression that captures, absorbs, and filters storm water runoff from roofs, driveways, and roads. Rain gardens are designed to hold water for soil and plants to trap, absorb and filter out pollutants such as fertilizers, oil, grease, pesticides and sediment, while recharging groundwater supplies.

Rain Gardens Help:

- Reduce pollution entering our waters.
- Boost property values while cutting landscape maintenance costs.
- Reduce local flooding potential.
- Attract native birds and butterflies.



Plant Choices

Native plants have deeper root systems that absorb more water and are adapted to local soil types. These are easy to maintain once established and require little to no watering. Plus, native plants attract beneficial pollinators, such as birds and butterflies.

Soils

The correct soil mix is vital to the success of a rain garden. A soil mix of at least 60% sand will increase filtration and help process nutrients.

Size

A rain garden is typically 5-10% the size of the hard surface area (ex. Rooftop, driveway, walkway) that generates storm water runoff.

Roots

Deep rooted plants are the essential component of the rain garden as they penetrate and break up the soil. The extensive root systems prevent soil erosion and minimize garden maintenance.

Did You Know?

Park and Ride facilities reduce energy consumption, air pollution and congestion on the roadways. All three reductions help improve the air we breathe, which is better for our health, our environment and our economy, since less air pollutants mean less stringent air regulations on industry. Traveling together on regular commutes to work, or day trips to Augusta, Columbia or Atlanta reduces the overall number of trips traveled which reduces emissions. Learn more about air quality in our area by visiting www.scdhec.gov.

Widespread use of LED lighting has the greatest potential impact on energy savings in the United States according to www.energy.gov. By 2027, widespread use of LEDs could save about 348 terrawatt hour, (TWh) of electricity, as compared to no LED use. This is the equivalent annual electrical output of 44 large electric power plants (1000 megawatts each), and a total savings of more than $30 billion at today's electricity prices.

This project is located in the Savannah River Watershed. All water from this site flows into Pole Branch, which flows into Fox Creek and ultimately to the Savannah River. More than 1.5 million people rely on the Savannah River for drinking water.

Anything that goes into a storm drain flows directly into a stream or other body of water without being treated, causing pollution in our drinking water sources. That includes bacteria, dirt, trash and oils that are bad for water quality and can be a danger to human health. The rain gardens here, clean pollutants from the water before it flows downstream and into our drinking water source, the Savannah River.

Want to help improve water quality in North Augusta? You can help at home by doing the following:

- *Never put anything in a storm drain*
- *Fix leaks coming from your automobile*
- *Dispose of all trash and chemicals properly*
- *Wash vehicles on grassed surfaces*
- *Pick up pet wastes*
- *Conserve water to reduce runoff*
- *Install your own rain garden*

To find out more ways to help, visit the Carolina Clear Stormwater website at:
www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear

“BAQ Update”

- To receive the “BAQ Update” that is sent ~every two weeks… e-mail Renee Baecker at: baeckerr@dhec.sc.gov

Questions & Thank you!
www.scdhec.gov/BAQ/

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