PROPOSED RULEMAKING ON STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

AND THE DRAFT STORMWATER GUIDEBOOK

Public Hearing

Held At:

THE DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1200 First Street, Northeast, Room 718

Washington, D.C. 20002

Monday, November 5, 2012

6:15 p.m.

Reported by: Gervel A. Watts, CERT*D

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                      A P P E A R A N C E S
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    Sheila Besse - Associate Director, Watershed Protection
 3
                   Division
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   Alan Barak - Assistant Attorney General, OGC
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   Brian Van Wye - Environmental Protection Specialist,
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 7
                    Stormwater Management Division
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   PUBLIC COMMENTERS:
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  Diane Cameron - Natural Resources Defense Council
   Christopher Kerns - Fort Myer Construction Corp.
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	MS. BESSE: Good evening. We are on the
3	record. I am Sheila Besse, Associate Director for the
4	Watershed Protection Division, District Department of
5	the Environment, presenting for tonight's public
6	hearing on the Proposed Rulemaking on Stormwater
7	Management and Soil Erosion and Sediment Control and
8	the Draft Stormwater Management Guidebook. While I
9	will read these short remarks, I am directing the court
10	reporter to bind a copy of them into the record.
11	I will now call this public hearing to order.
12	It is now 6:15, Monday, November 5, 2012, at the
13	District Department of the Environment, DDOE, 1200
14	First Street, Northeast, Washington, D.C., Conference
15	Room 718.
16	The D.C. Register notice for this hearing
17	appeared on September 14, 2012, Volume 59 DCR, page
18	10843, number 37. While the Register notice stated a
19	start time only, DDOE has scheduled this hearing to run
20	until 8:00 p.m.
21	The public hearing is being conducted under
22	the authority of Mr. Keith Anderson, Interim Director

1	for DDOE. Representing DDOE are Alan Barak, Assistant
2	Attorney General for the Office of General Counsel, and
3	Brian Van Wye from our Stormwater Management Division.
4	The purpose of this hearing is to allow
5	members of the public to present their views on the
6	Proposed Rulemaking and the Draft Stormwater Management
7	Guidebook. The Proposed Rule appeared in the D.C.
8	Register on August 10, 2012, Volume 59 DCR, page 9486,
9	Number 32. The intent of the Proposed Rulemaking is to
10	amend Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the District of Columbia
11	Municipal Regulations, DCMR, comprehensively amending
12	the stormwater management regulations and the soil
13	erosion and sediment control regulations.
14	DDOE has updated and expanded the Draft
15	Stormwater Management Guidebook to be consistent with
16	and provide technical guidance on the compliance with
17	the Proposed Rulemaking. The Rulemaking and revision
18	of the Stormwater Management Guidebook are necessary to
19	update the District's existing stormwater management
20	and soil erosion sediment control regulations to
21	reflect the current scientific engineering and
22	practical understanding in the fields of stormwater

1	management and soil erosion and sediment control.
2	Knowledge and technology in these fields have
3	changed considerably since 1977, when the majority of
4	the soil erosion and sediment control requirements were
5	put in place, and since 1988, when the District's
6	existing stormwater management requirements were
7	established.
8	This Rulemaking and revision of the
9	Stormwater Management Guidebook are also necessary to
10	reduce the impacts of stormwater on District
11	waterbodies, advance the effort to restore them to good
12	health and make them more useable and attractive for
13	residents, businesses and visitors.
14	Finally, this Rulemaking and the revision of
15	the Stormwater Management Guidebook are necessary to
16	comply with federal requirements established in the
17	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, MS4, permit
18	issued to the District by the U.S. Environmental
19	Protection Agency, USEPA, Region III, issued on October
20	7, 2011.
21	DDOE published the Proposed Rulemaking in the
22	Register in the D.C. Register on August 10, 2012,

1	Volume 59 DCR, page 9486, Number 32. About one week
2	later, DDOE posted the Draft Stormwater Management
3	Guidebook on its website at
4	ddoe.dc.gov/proposedstormwaterrule, one word. As I
5	stated earlier, DDOE published notice of this hearing
6	in the D.C. Register on September 14, 2012, Volume 59
7	DCR, page 10843, Number 37.
8	DDOE also sent email notifications regarding
9	the publication of the Proposed Rule, website posting
10	of the guidebook, and scheduling of this hearing and
11	various training sessions to members of the public who
12	had requested to be added to a notification list.
13	DDOE is accepting public comments on the
14	Proposed Rule for 90 days, through November 8, 2012.
15	DDOE is also accepting public comments on the Draft
16	Stormwater Guidebook during this time. The Proposed
17	Rule, the Draft Guidebook, instructions for requesting
18	to be added to the notification list on these topics
19	and related information are available at
20	ddoe.dc.gov/proposedstormwaterrule.
21	In addition to today's hearing, DDOE has held
22	a series of general training sessions related to the

1	Proposed Rule and Draft Guidebook, as well as focused
2	sessions on specific topics as requested by
3	stakeholders in accordance with the process DDOE
4	described in the preamble to the Proposed Rule and on
5	the webpage mentioned above.
6	DDOE is also responding to clarifying
7	questions during the public comment period and posting
8	responses to those questions on the webpage mentioned
9	above. If you have clarifying questions, please
10	contact Brian Van Wye at brian.vanwye@dc.gov or 202-
11	741-2121.
12	DDOE will consider all written and oral
13	comments. For the accuracy of the record, DDOE
14	requests that oral statements also be submitted in
15	writing. Instructions on submitting written comments
16	are at the end of the Proposed Rule. Electronic
17	submission is preferred.
18	If you have extensive written material, you
19	do not need to read it into the record. I will
20	instruct the court reporter to include the entirety of
21	your submission in the hearing record. Then please
22	
	just summarize your submission for your oral comments

during today's hearing so there will be time for 1 2 parties to be heard. We have a sign-up list for those attending 3 today's hearing. If you have not already done so, 4 please sign in and indicate if you wish to speak. I 5 will call each person in the order in which they appear 6 on the list of persons who requested to speak. 7 Ιf 8 necessary, I will ask individuals to restrict their 9 comments to a time period not less than five minutes, 10 in order to ensure there will be time for all persons wishing to speak. 11 12 Before beginning your statement, please clearly state your name and affiliation, if any. The 13 court reporter may ask you to spell your name. At this 14 15 time I call Ms. Diane Cameron to give her presentation. 16 Thank you. 17 MS. CAMERON: Thank you very much. My name is Diane Cameron, and I am here tonight to testify on 18 19 behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council, and 20 also joining us in this testimony are the D.C. 21 Environmental Network, the Anacostia Watershed Society, 22 Clean Water Action, and the Audubon Naturalist Society.

1	My comments are as follows: and I have
2	oral testimony that I've also submitted a copy to in
3	writing.
4	The Draft Regulations requirement for new
5	development and redevelopment projects to retain
6	rainfall associated with a 1.2-inch storm, either
7	onsite or through the use of offsite retention credits
8	is both legally required by the District's MS4 permit,
9	and we believe it's a smart way to approach stormwater
10	management that will yield many benefits.
11	So overall, we are very supportive of this
12	approach; however, we do have a number of concerns with
13	the proposed regulations in certain aspects that may
14	lead to less than the full 1.2-inch stormwater volume
15	being captured, or it may lead to noncompliance with
16	other MS4 permit conditions.
17	I'm going to now list four specific concerns
18	we have about this overall aspect. First of all, we're
19	concerned that the proposal to allow offsite stormwater
20	retention credits, or SRCs, to be banked, indefinitely,
21	divorces the timing of actual real world retention from
22	the time when credits are used to achieve regulatory

1	compliance. As a result, the 1.2-inch storm volume
2	obligation may not actually be met during each storm
3	event or even during each year.
4	Secondly, we are concerned that allowing
5	previously constructed retention practices to generate
6	SRCs may mean that retention of the full 1.2-inch storm
7	volume is not actually being achieved beyond baseline
8	conditions.
9	Three, we are concerned that the lack of
10	geographical restrictions on the location of credit-
11	generating projects, in relation to the location of
12	regulated credit purchasing sites could lead to
13	pollution hot spots or uneven environmental benefits,
14	and could lead to failure to achieve these stormwater
15	permits, 1.2- inch retention requirement, if net
16	retention were to shifted outside of the MS4 area into
17	the combined sewer shed.
18	And fourthly, under this heading, we are
19	concerned that DDOE should not allow retention
20	practices, installed, to comply with the MS4 permits
21	retrofit requirements to generate SRCs and to be used
22	towards satisfaction of the 1.2-inch retention

1 requirement.

2 Conversely, SRC generating practices should not be counted toward the District's 18 million square 3 foot retrofit obligation. We see these two separate 4 permit obligations, and that's how we read the permit. 5 6 So we request that such projects not be double-counted. 7 Our next major point is that additionally, we 8 recommend that certain aspects of the proposed 9 regulations be changed in order to improve 10 implementation, administration, and enforcement of the 11 program. 12 Namely, we ask that payment-in-lieu fees be

13 collected in their own special revenue fund in order to 14 ensure that they are only used to fund projects that 15 achieve stormwater retention. An annual report should 16 be produced to explain how these funds are being used. 17 Projects funded through in-lieu payments should not be 18 able to generate SRCs in order to avoid double-counting 19 of required offsite retention volumes.

20 DDOE should consistently and regularly 21 publish and update an online publicly accessible 22 database of certified SRCs that are available for

1	purchase and SRCs that have been purchased. An annual
2	report should be produced on the SRC market so that the
3	new program's environmental impacts can be evaluated,
4	and stormwater projects earning SRCs should be
5	inspected at a minimum, on an annual basis. And that's
6	it for my testimony.
7	MS. BESSE: Okay. Well, thank you, Diane.
8	At this time, I'd like to call Christopher Kerns to
9	testify.
10	MR. KERNS: Sure. My name is Christopher
11	Kerns and I'm vice-president of Fort Myer Construction
12	Corporation. We are interested in these regulations
13	and these rules. We are in the business and beginning
14	the business and new businesses involving porous
15	surfaces such as porous asphalt, porous concrete,
16	porous pavers, and we're actually somewhat in the
17	forefront in the last couple of years of introducing
18	these to the District's Department of Transportation.
19	The comments that I've received from industry
20	sources has been quite good, actually, very
21	encouraging. There have been a lot of organizations and
22	companies that are understanding the requirements for

1	taking these steps to preserve and careful water run-
2	off. I think the vast majority of the people I've
3	talked to are willing to participate in that. They're
4	also excited about the innovative way in which DDOE is
5	challenging, I guess, everybody to come up with
6	different ways of meeting these requirements.
7	So I think that, generally, the comments have
8	been very good. Implementation is going to be the next
9	step, and that's going to be somewhat difficult. The
10	questions that I had actually concern the fourth area
11	that the last person that just talked about, the
12	double- counting, and my understanding is and there
13	are two sets of Rulemaking, the Stormwater Management
14	and Soil Erosion and Sediment Control rules, and the
15	second one is the Stormwater Fee Discount Program.
16	I understand that there can be some double-
17	counting, but it doesn't appear to be set forth in the
18	regulations as to how that would happen. And I'm not
19	sure, necessarily, if it, in fact, should be set forth
20	in regulations. And to that, I would leave that up to
21	the legal experts of DDOE. But I think there ought to
22	be some, perhaps, at least some policy published on

1	that subject and some methods of how that would be
2	accomplished because I think it leaves a lot of
3	questions and I really didn't quite get to that
4	until this weekend I was reviewing everything again,
5	trying to understand how that would come about. I
6	don't know, necessarily if I can say for certain how
7	that would come about.
8	To have the ability for either a commercial
9	or residential owner to be able to say that they could
10	take their property and not only remediate water run-
11	off on their property, but potentially even sell
12	credits so they could get, you know, potentially, some
13	discount under the stormwater fee, and also sell, I
14	think would present a great amount of excitement among
15	a lot of residential and commercial owners. So
16	understanding what this region faces, in terms of the
17	fiscal challenges, this could be very exciting, but I
18	think it's got to be, maybe packaged a little bit
19	better so that we can all understand how that would be
20	accomplished, and, perhaps, also understanding some of
21	the concerns that were just raised a little while ago
22	as well. But that's basically my questions, I guess,

and my comments. 1 2 I would also say that I've been at a number of these training sessions and so forth and the amount 3 of work and time and effort and knowledge that has gone 4 into this has just been very impressive. I just wanted 5 to say that about the staff of DDOE. 6 7 MS. BESSE: Well, thank you, Mr. Kerns, for 8 your testimony. At this time, is there anybody else 9 who like to testify? 10 (No response.) As there are no persons present at this time who wish 11 to testify, I will temporarily close the record and I 12 will reopen the record at 8:00 p.m. The time now is 13 6:32. Ms. Court Reporter, will you now go off the 14 15 record. 16 (Whereupon, a recess from 6:32 p.m. 17 to 8:00 p.m. was taken.) 18 * * * * 19 (8:00 p.m.) 20 MS. BESSE: We are back on the record. As 21 all of those who wished to testify have been heard, I will now move to officially close this hearing. Madam 22

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1	Court Reporter, please include in today's record all	
2	submissions which have been provided to you. The time	
3	is now 8:01 p.m. This hearing is now closed.	
4	(Whereupon, at 8:01 p.m., the hearing was	
5	adjourned.)	
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1	CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC
2	
3	I, GERVEL A. WATTS, the officer before whom the
4	foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify that
5	the testimony that appears in the foregoing pages was
6	recorded by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting
7	under my direction; that said deposition is a true
8	record of the proceedings; that I am neither counsel
9	for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to
10	the action in which this deposition was taken; and
11	further, that I am not a relative or employee of any
12	counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor
13	financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of
14	this action.
15	
16	
17	
18	GERVEL A. WATTS
19	Notary Public in and for the District of Columbia
20	DISTITCE OF COLUMDIA
21	
22	My commission expires: January 31, 2014

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