

Welcome to the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program E-Update – a monthly summary of selected activities of the APNEP staff, committees and our partners...

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today issued a request for proposals for its Southern Rivers mini-grant program. Project proposals for Southern Rivers nonpoint source (NPS) Reduction Activities are being accepted through **Nov. 19, 2007** for small (<\$5,000) projects that address water quality issues.

WATERSHED AREAS: Funding is being provided for **NPS Reduction Initiatives** in the following river basins within the southern rivers/non-bay region of Virginia: Albemarle Sound coastal, Big Sandy, Chowan, Clinch-Powell, Holston River (Upper Tennessee), New, Roanoke, Sea Side Eastern Shore VA and Yadkin.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA: The geographic areas served by the following VADCR regional offices are eligible to apply: Abingdon, Clarkesville, Dublin, and Suffolk; and limited localities served by the regional offices in Richmond and Staunton. For more information contact Noah.Hill@dcr.virginia.gov

EPA to Develop Regulations for Geologic Sequestration of Carbon Dioxide – EPA has announced plans to develop regulations to establish a clear path for geologic sequestration, a process of injecting captured carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, in deep rock formations for long-term storage. Once completed, the regulations will ensure there is a consistent and effective permit system under the Safe Drinking Water Act for commercial-scale geologic sequestration programs to help reduce the effects of climate change.

"Addressing global climate change will require fundamental changes in the way the world generates and uses energy," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "By harnessing the power of geologic sequestration technology, we are entering a new age of clean energy where we can be both good stewards of the earth, and good stewards of the American economy."

EPA is working with the Department of Energy as it carries out its carbon sequestration research and development program and is also coordinating efforts to evaluate potential impacts on health, safety and the environment. The Safe Drinking Water Act established the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program to allow the safe injection of fluids into the subsurface in a manner that does not endanger current or future underground sources of drinking water.

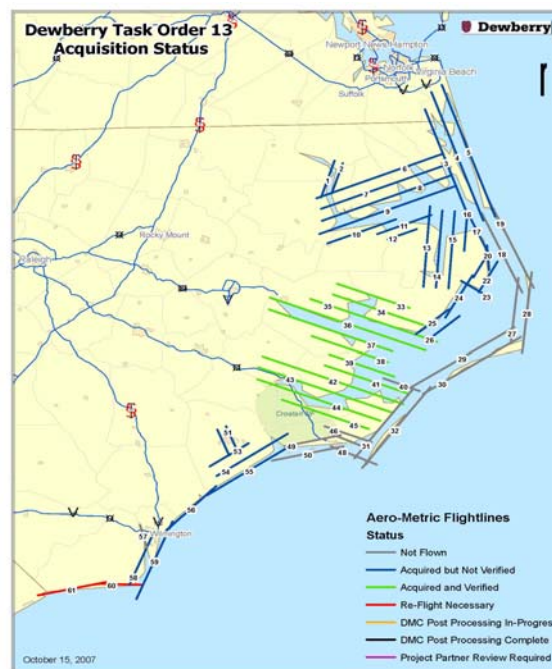
EPA plans to propose regulatory changes to the UIC program in the summer of 2008 and will invite the public and stakeholders to provide input throughout the rule development process. More information about geologic sequestration activities under the UIC program: http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/wells_sequestration.html .

New Water Quality Trading Program Maps on the Web -

Curious about where water quality trading is happening around the country? Check out EPA's new water quality trading maps. EPA has created two trading maps: the first map shows trading programs that have traded at least once, as well as state level trading programs. The second map shows trading programs that received EPA funding. Just click on the state about which you are interested and it will take you to more information on that state's trading programs. The maps are located on EPA's Water Quality Trading Website at: <http://www.epa.gov/waterqualitytrading/tradingmap.html>

Watershed Tool of the Month - The Watershed and Wetland Protection Information Kit for County Officials is a collection of resources that can assist county and local officials with efforts to protect and restore the multiple benefits of their community's water resources. This kit was produced by the Center for Watershed Protection and the National Association of Counties with support from the U.S. EPA. It is available online at: <http://www.cwp.org/wetlands/naco.htm>.

Aero-Metrics, the contractor hired to fly over North Carolina's coast and photograph submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) beds as part of APNEP's SAV partners group, has captured 1,383.61 of 1,795.48 (or 77.06%) flight line miles, to date. They have completed the non-tidal (priority) areas. The next opportunity for a tidal window is Oct. 20 and, weather permitting, the remaining areas will be done. Progress is depicted below:



Reminder – All APNEP advisory committees will meet at EPA's "green building" at Research Triangle Park in Durham on Nov. 20 beginning at 10 a.m. In addition to an annual report of program activities, APNEP will also commemorate its 20th anniversary. That's right, on Nov. 14, 1987, the Albemarle and Pamlico sounds estuarine system became the first system to be declared "an estuary of national significance" at a designation ceremony held at Elizabeth City State University. APNEP's predecessor, the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study (APES), was the first of the currently 28 National Estuary Programs (NEP) to be formed.

Council Maps Future with New Five-Year Area Plan - For more than 30 years the Albemarle RC&D has partnered with local governments, state and federal agencies, schools and universities, nonprofit groups and others to plan and implement projects that have successfully balanced resource conservation and economic development. Looking into the future, the council's mission and work will be critical for maintaining the quality of water in the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds, and the quality of life for the area's citizens.

Over the next few months the Albemarle RC&D Council will be finalizing a new five-year area plan to help guide its programs and services. As part of this effort, the Council mailed a short survey to its partners in their 10-county area (Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington) and respondents indicated overwhelmingly that a good job was being done and encouraged them to "keep doing what you have been doing".

Many respondents provided comments and suggestions on how the Council could do a better job delivering its programs and services. Examples included: "I think more could be done to recruit and retain a racially diverse membership" "I would like to see more members recruited from the tourism sector for certain counties" and; "Better communication about what the RC&D does." Survey respondents also identified priority issues in the 10-county area including drainage maintenance, stormwater management, conserving natural areas, restoring degraded lands and environmental awareness, among others.

A draft Area Plan was mailed to all council members in August for their review and comments. At its October meeting, the Executive Committee will incorporate members' comments into the Area Plan and finalize it. The finalized plan will be presented to the full council for approval at their December meeting.

Notable Reference - Callum Roberts' book, *The Unnatural History of the Sea*, relates a history of ocean life in words and pictures. Using accounts of sea adventures from explorers, fishermen, pirates, merchants and travelers, he explores hundreds of years of exploration and exploitation of the sea. Check out previews of the book on the Website and through Internet search engines. <http://www.historyofthesea.org/>

Do Something Brick Awards - The Do Something BRICK Awards honors outstanding leaders in two age categories, 18 and under and 19-25, who develop projects to improve their community in the areas of community building, health, or the environment. The deadline for application is Dec. 1, 2007. <http://www.dosomething.org/brick>.

Until next time...

Joan Giordano

APNEP Outreach Coordinator

October 2007