

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control
PH 009-014

The division will hold a public hearing to seek comments concerning an application for a state water quality permit from Allan Howard to construct a new middle school with parking, access roads and athletic facilities to alleviate over crowding within the Coffee County School system.

Construction of the new facility will require the placement of fill in 9.88 acres of jurisdictional wetland within a 39.04 acre parcel. Of the 39.04 acres approximately 17.88 acres are jurisdictional wetland, 15.86 are herbaceous fescue dominated field and 2.04 are forested. They are considered under the Hydrogeomorphic classification system to be flat wetlands with the major hydrological source being precipitation. Past alteration to the site involved timber harvesting. Approximately eight acres of W1 which is the most functional part of the 17.88 acres of wetlands will not be impacted but maintained in an early successional state under an agreed upon maintenance plan. The 2.04 acre forested W4 wetland will not be impacted in any manner.

Compensatory wetland mitigation for the unavoidable loss of 9.88 acres of wetland will be conducted offsite with the restoration of 20 acres. The proposed mitigation site is located adjacent to Hickerson Road in Coffee County and is approximately 7.5 miles from the impact area. The mitigation site is a small part of a large turf grass operation.

Alterations to the proposed mitigation site includes, timber harvesting, ditching and the placement of tile drains across the site. Prior to the alterations the site likely functioned as a flat wetland. The alterations have effectively drained the site. Several soil series are within the overall parcel; with the Guthrie series underlying the proposed restoration area. Given that the primary hydrology to the site is groundwater resulting from precipitation and runoff the negation of the previously mentioned alterations specifically the disabling of the drain tiles is likely to be sufficient to restore hydrology.

The entire 20 acres of restoration will be planted with bare root seedlings on 10-foot centers at a density of 400/acre. Species to be planted will include a mix of the following with no one species comprising more than 25% of the total; willow oak, water oak, pin oak, shumard oak, cherrybark oak, persimmon, and bitternut hickory.

The wetland mitigation will be monitored with annual reports submitted to this office and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2009

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Coffee County Administrative Plaza
Coffee County Schools Board Room
1343 Mc Arthur Street
Manchester, TN 37355
(931) 723-5150

Applicant: Allan Howard
4698 New Bushy Branch Road
Manchester, TN 37355
(931) 728-0583

The public notice of this project, file number NRS #09.262 published on September 15, 2009 can be found on the Internet at <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/ppo/arap>.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the application proposal are invited to deliver oral or written comment at the public hearing. The hearing officer will limit all testimony to relevant water quality issues and may limit testimony in the interest of time. However, all persons desiring to speak will be given an opportunity to do so. Written testimony will be accepted for 10 days following the hearing and will be considered part of the official record. The public is also invited to submit comments in writing to the division at the address printed below. The comments must be received within 30 days from the date of this notice. After considering all public comments, the division will publish a final permit decision and a notice of the division's determinations.

Interested persons may obtain additional information or inspect and copy the application and related documents during business hours at the division's central office at, 401 Church Street, 7th Floor L and C Annex, Nashville, TN 37243; (615) 532-0712 .

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access and affirmative action. Individuals with disabilities who wish to participate in these proceedings (or to review these filings) should contact the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to discuss any auxiliary aids or services needed to facilitate such participation. Contact for services should be made no less than ten days in advance to allow time to provide such aid or services. Contact the ADA Coordinator at 1-866-253-5827 for further information. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service (1-800-848-0298).

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Division of Water Pollution Control
Attn: Mike Lee
7th Floor L&C Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1534