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SENATE BILL NO. 217

Offered January 8, 2014

Prefiled January 3, 2014

A BILL to amend and reenact § 45.1-254 of the Code of Virginia, relating to pollutant discharge permit for mining operations.

Patron—Carrico

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 45.1-254 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 45.1-254. National pollutant discharge elimination system permits.**

A. The authority to issue, amend, revoke and enforce national pollutant discharge elimination system permits under the State Water Control Law (§ 62.1-44.2 et seq.) for the discharge of sewage, industrial wastes and other wastes from coal surface mining operations, to the extent delegated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and required under the federal Clean Water Act, P.L. 92-500, as amended, is vested solely in the Director, notwithstanding any provision of law contained in Title 62.1, except as provided herein. For the purpose of enforcement under this section, the provisions of §§ 62.1-44.31 and 62.1-44.32 shall apply to permits, orders and regulations issued by the Director in accordance with this section.

B. The Director shall transmit to the State Water Control Board a copy of each application for a national pollutant discharge elimination system permit received by the Director, and provide written notice to the State Water Control Board of every action related to the consideration of such permit application.

C. Prior to the issuance or reissuance of a permit, applicants shall submit an application on a form approved by the Director and a fee of \$300 for each discharge outfall point under the permit. If an application is approved the permittee shall, on the anniversary of the permit approval for each year of the permit term, submit \$300 for each discharge outfall point under the permit. Each permit shall remain valid for five years. All fees provided for under this section shall be in addition to any other fees levied pursuant to this chapter.

D. No national pollutant discharge elimination system permit shall be issued if, within 30 days of the date of the transmittal of the complete application and the proposed national pollution discharge elimination system permit, the State Water Control Board objects in writing to the issuance of such permit. Whenever the State Water Control Board objects to the issuance of such permit under this section, such written objection shall contain a statement of the reasons for such objection and the effluent limitations and conditions which such permits would include if it were issued by the State Water Control Board.

E. An applicant who is aggrieved by an objection made under subsection D of this section shall have the right to a hearing before the State Water Control Board pursuant to § 62.1-44.25. If the State Water Control Board withdraws, in writing, its objection to the issuance of a certificate, the Director may issue the permit. Any applicant, aggrieved by a final decision of the State Water Control Board made pursuant to this subsection, shall have the right to judicial review in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.).

F. C. Whenever, on the basis of any information available to it, the State Water Control Board finds that any person is in violation of any condition or limitation contained in a national pollutant discharge elimination system permit issued by the Director, it shall notify the person in alleged violation and the Director. If beyond the thirtieth day after notification by the State Water Control Board, the Director has not commenced appropriate enforcement action, the State Water Control Board may take appropriate enforcement action pursuant to §§ 62.1-44.15, 62.1-44.23, and 62.1-44.32.

G. D. The Director shall promulgate such regulations as deemed necessary for the issuance, administration, monitoring and enforcement of national pollutant discharge elimination system permits for coal surface mining operations.

H. E. For the purpose of this section, the terms "sewage," "industrial wastes" and "other wastes" shall have the meanings ascribed to them in § 62.1-44.3.

I. F. The Director, by examining the available and relevant data, shall determine whether a discharge may cause or contribute to an instream excursion above the narrative or numeric criteria of a water quality standard.

J. G. If a total maximum daily load (TMDL) has been established by the State Water Control Board

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59 for the receiving water body, then there shall be consideration of the TMDL in the reasonable potential
60 determination as to whether a discharge may cause or contribute to an instream excursion above the
61 narrative or numeric criteria of a water quality standard. If the receiving water body does not have a
62 TMDL established, the Director may consider biological monitoring, chemical monitoring, and whole
63 effluent toxicity testing to determine whether a discharge may cause or contribute to an instream
64 excursion above the narrative or numeric criteria of a water quality standard. The Director may require
65 whole effluent toxicity testing if he determines that the discharge adversely affects the biological
66 condition of the receiving water body.