



YORK RIVER & SMALL COASTAL BASIN ROUNDTABLE

2023 Lunch-and-Learn Series

Speaker Bios and Talk Summaries

Q2: Solar

April 19, 2023; 12-1pm Eastern

Solar Permit-by-Rule Program - Current Status and Upcoming Developments - Susan Tripp and Amber Foster, Small Renewable Energy PBR Program

Join the DEQ Renewable Energy PBR Coordinators in an overview of solar projects proposed and operating within the York watershed, including location, acreage, megawatts and overall capacity. They'll also provide an overview of DEQ's role in the renewable energy permitting process and how they approach reviews for PBR applications. A wrap up will include updates on the regulatory development process required by the 2022 House Bill 206 (HB206 - Small renewable energy projects; impact on natural resources). This includes the continuation of developing criteria to determine if a "significant adverse impact" to prime agricultural soils or forest lands is likely to occur as a result of a proposed small renewable energy solar project and how to address the impacts in a project's mitigation plan.

Susan Tripp, Virginia DEQ

Susan has worked for the Department of Environmental Quality for the past 11 years in their central office in downtown Richmond. She started as a data analyst in the Air Permitting program and transitioned to the Renewable Energy Permit by Rule program as the PBR coordinator in December 2021.



Amber Foster, Virginia DEQ

Amber is currently one of two Small Renewable Energy Permit by Rule Coordinators within the DEQ Air and Renewable Energy Division. Her primary role is to receive and review renewable energy PBR applications in conjunction with "sister agency" (DWR, DCR, DHR) and applicant coordination and finalizing PBR authorization letters. She started the position in June of 2022. Prior to working in the renewable energy sector, Amber worked for DEQ in two other positions as 1) a Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act locality liaison for the



Hampton Roads region and Eastern Shore and 2) as the state Title V (Air Permit) Coordinator. Amber currently lives in Richmond, Virginia and has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Roanoke College and a Master of Science degree from Virginia Commonwealth University

Stormwater Management for Solar Panel Arrays - Rebecca Rochet, Division of Water Permitting

Join the DEQ Deputy Director of Water Permitting in an overview of the key solar-specific considerations with regards to stormwater management, as well as recent guidance published by DEQ to address these specific considerations, common deficiencies and areas of conflict.

Rebecca Rochet, Virginia DEQ

Rebecca (Becky) is the Deputy Director of the Division of Water Permitting at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. She has a MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering and a BS in Civil Engineering, is a licensed Professional Engineer, and holds a Dual Combined Administrator certification. Becky has more than 23 years of experience, including 13 years with local government and 10 years with private consulting, focused on stormwater management, policy development, program implementation, VPDES permit compliance, and Chesapeake Bay Act compliance.



Predicting and remediating soil and site impacts from utility scale solar development - W. Lee Daniels, Virginia Tech

This presentation will cover the potential for significant soil and site disturbance during the installation and management of utility scale solar developments along with suggested protocols to restore and maintain soil productivity and essential ecosystem services.

W. Lee Daniels, Virginia Tech

Lee is the Thomas B. Hutcheson Professor of Environmental Soil Science at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. He received his Ph.D. in Soil Science from VPI & SU in 1985. Dr. Daniels areas of specialization include stabilization and restoration of disturbed lands including areas disturbed by mining, road building, waste disposal, urbanization and erosion. In particular, he has focused his research and consulting experience in mine reclamation, wetland impact mitigation and soil-waste management systems. Details on his research and outreach programs and publications are available at <https://landrehab.org>.

