

October 19, 2023

MDE's intent to seek a Priority Funding Area (PFA) funding exception for 31 Properties on West River Road, Shady Side in Anne Arundel County

Background: The Bay Restoration (Septic) Fund (BRF) requires MDE to provide an opportunity for Public Comment and/or Public Hearing in cases where there are On-site Sewage Disposal Systems (OSDS)/septic systems are located outside the State Priority Funding Area (PFA) and where BRF grant funding is being proposed for the public sewer connections. After addressing the public comments, if any, MDE intends to seek a PFA funding exception from the Smart Growth Coordinating Committee chaired by the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP).

Public Comment Period: Through November 19, 2023. Send e-mail comments to jeffrey.fretwell@maryland.gov.

Project: Sewer collection system for 1 subdivision in Anne Arundel County consisting of a total of 31 existing homes/businesses and a maximum of 5 vacant lots. The sewer will ultimately be conveyed to and treated at the Broadwater wastewater treatment plant.

Water Quality & Public Health Issues: The County Health Department determination is summarized below: Out of 31 improved properties in the project area, 12 have state-approved BAT units, 10 have custom-engineered nitrogen reducing units such as recirculating sand or shale filters, and 2 properties have holding tanks. None of the existing septic systems in the West River Road Project Area meet state regulations regarding the proper siting, sizing, and design of conventional drainfields. The surface soils are relatively impermeable and do not pass perc tests, while the underlying sandier material consistently has a water table within a few feet of the surface. This means that most, and perhaps all of the existing septic systems do not have the four-foot separation between the bottom of the drainfield and the groundwater as required by state regulations. Without the four feet of unsaturated soil between the bottom of the drainfield and the water table many physical, chemical, and microbiological treatment processes are lessened or impeded. For septic systems that are within 100 feet of a shallow well or surface water there is concern that bacteria or viruses could make their way through groundwater to the well or the surface water.

BRF Funding Eligibility: Up to \$25,000 per existing home; maximum of \$ 775,000 or actual prorated sewer collection system cost, whichever is lower.

Potential New Growth: Maximum of 5 future infill homes on existing vacant lots.

Measures Taken to Mitigate New Growth: The service area has been narrowly defined with the potential for 5 future infill homes.

Potential Nitrogen Reduction:

	<u>Approx. Total Nitrogen (TN) Discharged (lb/yr)</u>	<u>Total TN Reduced (lb/yr)</u>
No Action	626	000
BAT Upgrade	313	313
ENR Connection	62*	564

Attachment: Location Map

