

(e) The Department shall disseminate the notice of completed application by:

(1) Mailing a copy to each person on the mailing list of interested persons;

(2) Publishing the notice for at least 1 business day in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the proposed activity would occur. The applicant shall bear the cost of the newspaper notice; and

(3) Publishing the notice in the Maryland Register. Notwithstanding any provision of the State Government Article, this will be the only notice concerning the permit or any subsequent action by the Department on the permit that will be published in the Maryland Register.

(f) Following review of public comments, if any, the Department may schedule meetings or public informational hearings as the Department determines appropriate to solicit additional information from interested persons. Upon written request for a hearing on matters related to water appropriation or waterway construction, the Department shall schedule a public informational hearing. The Department shall mail notice of the date, time, and location of any meeting or public informational hearing on the application to those on the interested persons list.

(g) Following the application review and comment period and after any public informational hearing on the application, the Department shall issue, modify, or deny the permit.

(h) (1) The Department shall mail notice of the decision to issue, modify, or deny the permit to the applicant and to those on the interested persons list.

(2) As part of the notice of the decision to issue, modify, or deny the permit, the Department shall:

(i) Provide all those on the interested persons list and the applicant an opportunity to request a contested case hearing; and

(ii) State a deadline by which requests must be received.

(i) Upon request, the Department shall hold a contested case hearing if the Department determines that:

(1) A hearing requester has a specific right, duty, privilege, or interest which is or may be adversely affected by the permit determination;

(2) The requester raises adjudicable issues which are within the scope of this subtitle; and

(3) The request is timely.

(j) Upon motion by a party to a contested case hearing, the Department may grant a temporary stay of the issuance of the permit pending a final decision in the contested case, provided that: