

PUBLIC NOTICE

of

DRAFT PERMIT and PUBLIC HEARING

Date: April 3, 2014
Permit No. MI0059209
Harrietta-Grayling Fish Hatch

The Department of Environmental Quality (Department) proposes to issue a new discharge permit to: the Harrietta Hills Trout Farm LLC for the Grayling Fish Hatchery located at 4890 West North Down River Road, Grayling, Michigan 49738. The applicant operates an aquaculture facility that produces trout. The applicant discharges fish rearing water to the East Branch of the Au Sable River in the NW1/4, NW1/4, Section 8, Township 26N, Range 3W, Crawford County.

A combined Public Meeting and Public Hearing to explain the draft permit and provide the public with the opportunity to provide comments on the draft permit will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. at the Crawford County Courthouse, Circuit Courtroom, 200 West Michigan Avenue, Grayling, Michigan. The Department will begin the Public Meeting by briefly explaining the draft permit and then will answer questions from the public. A Public Hearing will follow to provide the public an additional opportunity to provide comments on the draft permit.

This draft permit authorizes an increased loading of pollutants to the East Branch of the Au Sable River, which will lower the water quality with respect to certain parameters. The permitted discharge shall not lower the existing water quality of the receiving water below State Water Quality Standards. In accordance with Rule 323.1098, the applicant submitted an Antidegradation Demonstration. The Department proposes that the applicant's Antidegradation Demonstration, based on information required by Subrule (4) of R323.1098, shows that lowering of water quality is necessary to support the identified important social and economic development in the area. This is solely for purposes of satisfying state water quality regulations and is not intended to supplant local requirements, including land use or zoning laws. It is not, and should not be construed as, a finding by the Department that the proposed development meets local requirements or ordinances. In addition to the proposed permit, the Department is proposing to accept the Antidegradation Demonstration as adequate.

Comments or objections to the draft permit and proposed decision regarding the Antidegradation Demonstration received by May 7, 2014, will be considered in the final decision to issue the permit. Anyone unable to attend the public meeting and hearing may submit comments by mail or e-mail through this date. Persons desiring information regarding the draft permit, Antidegradation Demonstration, or procedures for commenting should contact Tarek Buckmaster, Permits Section, Water Resources Division, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 30458, Lansing, Michigan 48909, telephone: 517-284-5584, e-mail: buckmastert@michigan.gov.

Copies of the permit application, Public Notice, Fact Sheet, Antidegradation Demonstration, and draft permit may be obtained via the Internet (<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/owis> - click on 'Permits on Public Notice') or at the Water Resources Division Cadillac District Office located at 120 West Chapin Street, Cadillac, Michigan 49601-2158, telephone: 231-775-3960.

Individuals needing accommodations for effective participation at the meeting should contact Susan Ashcraft at 517-284-5568 a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.