

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

February 24, 2017

**CAPACITY USE AREA GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
AND PUBLIC HEARING**

The Groundwater Use and Reporting Act requires that the groundwater resources of the State be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent to which they are capable, subject to reasonable regulation, in order to conserve and protect these resources, prevent waste, and to provide and maintain conditions which are conducive to the development and use of water resources. See S.C. Code Section 49-5-20. Further, the Act states that the Department of Health and Environmental Control (the Department) shall coordinate the affected governing bodies and groundwater withdrawers (of a designated Capacity Use Area) to develop a groundwater management plan to achieve goals and objectives stated in Section 49-5-20. See S.C. Code Section 49-5-60(B). In those areas where the governing bodies and withdrawers are unable to develop a plan, the Department shall take action to develop the plan. The plan must be approved by the S.C. Board of Health and Environmental Control before any new groundwater withdrawal permits may be issued by the Department.

The Department is initiating the process of developing local groundwater management plans for the Trident, Low Country, Waccamaw, and Pee Dee Capacity Use Areas. A public hearing for the Trident Capacity Use Area is scheduled for March 29, 2017. The hearing will be held from 5:30 PM- 8:30 PM in the 3rd Floor Council Chambers of North Charleston City Hall located at 2500 City Hall Lane, North Charleston, SC 29406. Local governments, permitted water users, industry, public water suppliers, and the general public are invited to participate in the plan development.

If you have questions or comments, or wish to be notified of meetings, please contact Robert Devlin, Division of Water Monitoring, Assessment and Protection, at (803) 898-3798 or by email at DevlinRJ@dhec.sc.gov. You may also visit our webpage at www.scdhec.gov/groundwaterplans for more information.