



Notice Requesting Public Comments on Draft Permit Actions

Public Participation Opportunity

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
Division of Water Resources (DWR)

Public Notice Date: **August 18, 2026**

Public Notice Number: **MMXXVI-033**

Expiration Date: **September 17, 2026**

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public of the following proposed permit actions and to solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed activities on human health and the environment. A list of applications, proposed projects, documents, draft permits, inspections and Notices of Intent (NOIs) received by the DWR is available on our web pages (see links below)

[All Active DWR Permits](#)

[Map Showing Permits on Public Notice](#)

[Public Participation Opportunities](#)

Summary of Proposed Permitting Actions

	<u>Count</u>
Individual NPDES Permit	
Proposed Reissuance	2
State Operating Permit (SOP)	
Proposed Reissuance	3

Please bring this notice to the attention of persons you believe will be interested.

Individual NPDES Permit

Proposed Reissuance

Applicant Name **City of Benton**

Project Name Benton STP

Permit Number **TN0067334**

Permit Rating **Minor**

Permit Coordinator Timothy Hunziker
(615) 981-7879
Timothy.Hunziker@tn.gov

County **Polk**

Environmental Field Office **Chattanooga**

Street Address/Location 320 Town Creek Road

City and Zip Code Benton, TN 37307

Description of Activity Treatment of municipal sewage via extended aeration activated sludge treatment (oxidation ditch) and ultraviolet light disinfecting

Effluent Description treated municipal wastewater from Outfall 001

Stream/Waterbody Four Mile Creek Mile 1.7

Activity Latitude 35.178333

Activity Longitude -84.659167

Applicant Contact:

City of Benton
c/o Joe Jenkins
PO BOX 687
Benton, TN 37307
423-388-5733

Individual NPDES Permit

Proposed Reissuance

Applicant Name **City of Copperhill**

Project Name Copperhill STP

Permit Number **TN0024449**

Permit Rating **Minor**

Permit Coordinator Maybelle T. Sparks, P.E.
(615) 532-0651
Maybelle.Sparks@tn.gov

County **Polk**

Environmental Field Office **Chattanooga**

Street Address/Location Old River Camp Road

City and Zip Code Copperhill, TN 37317

Description of Activity treatment of municipal sewage via activated sludge treatment and chlorine disinfecting

Effluent Description treated municipal wastewater

Stream/Waterbody Ocoee River at mile 37.0

Activity Latitude 34.991525

Activity Longitude -84.381386

Applicant Contact:

City of Copperhill
c/o Greg Barker
160 Main St
Copperhill, TN 37317
423-496-5141

State Operating Permit (SOP)

Proposed Reissuance

Applicant Name **Tennessee State Parks**

Project Name Hiwassee State Scenic River State Park Reliance Picnic and Boat Site

Permit Number **SOP-07065**

Permit Rating **Minor**

Permit Coordinator Tricia Swaney
(615) 253-5407
Tricia.Swaney@tn.gov

County **Polk**

Environmental Field Office **Chattanooga**

Street Address/Location 148 Ellis Creek Rd

City and Zip Code Reliance, TN 37369

Description of Activity System of waterless vault toilets for domestic wastewater to Cleveland Utilities (TN0024121)

Wastewater Description No dishcharge allowed

Stream/Waterbody Hiwassee River- No Discharge Allowed

Activity Latitude 35.187609

Activity Longitude -84.496204

Applicant Contact:

TDEC-TSP
c/o Travis England
404 Spring Creek Road
Delano, TN 37325
423-263-0050

State Operating Permit (SOP)

Proposed Reissuance

Applicant Name **Tennessee State Parks**

Project Name Ocoee River State Park

Permit Number **SOP-26014**

Permit Rating **Minor**

Permit Coordinator Tricia Swaney
(615) 253-5407
Tricia.Swaney@tn.gov

County **Polk**

Environmental Field Office **Chattanooga**

Street Address/Location Hwy 64

City and Zip Code Delano, TN 37325

Description of Activity System of waterless vault toilets for domestic wastewater to Cleveland Utilities (TN0024121); This activity was formerly permitted under SOP-07065 but now operates under its own permit as a separate state park.

Wastewater Description N/A

Stream/Waterbody Ocoee River

Activity Latitude 35.082727

Activity Longitude -84.489722

Applicant Contact:

TDEC-TSP
c/o Angelo Giansante
PO Box 350
Benton, TN 37307
615-631-2916

State Operating Permit (SOP)

Proposed Reissuance

Applicant Name **Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)**

Project Name Emergency Response Training Center (ERTC)

Permit Number **SOP-90160**

Permit Rating **Minor**

Permit Coordinator Bradley Smith
(731) 234-1408
Bradley.E.Smith@tn.gov

County **Marion**

Environmental Field Office **Chattanooga**

Street Address/Location 3256 Shellmound Rd

City and Zip Code Jasper, TN 37347

Description of Activity Fire Safety Training Facility - two collection ponds, recycle system, and spray irrigation of excess water on 4.2 acres of suitable soil.

Wastewater Description No discharge allowed

Stream/Waterbody Tennessee River - No Discharge

Activity Latitude 35.015746

Activity Longitude -85.616012

Applicant Contact:

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
c/o Morgan Hopkins
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402
423-774-4034

POTW - Pretreatment Program Approvals

None

The Division of Water Resources is authorized to approve local POTW Pretreatment Programs for the administration and enforcement of the National Pretreatment Standards of Performance for industrial users of the respective Publicly Owned Treatment Works listed in this notice. Additionally, the POTW Programs are required to prevent the introduction of pollutants into the POTW's which will interfere with their operation, including the use or disposal of sludge, and prevent the introduction of pollutants into the POTW's which will pass through the treatment works or be otherwise incompatible. All POTW Pretreatment Programs approved are in accordance with the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act, the federal Clean Water Act, and appropriate regulations.

End of List

How to Comment:

TDEC is requesting comment on the above listed permitting actions. Obtaining a broad range of facts and opinions on Agency actions is one of the best ways to ensure quality decisions. Persons wishing to comment on the proposed action are invited to submit comments in writing to the Division of Water Resources at Davy Crockett Tower, 9th Floor, 500 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1102, Attn: Public Notice Coordinator, by fax number (615) 532-0686, or by E-mail at Water.Permits@tn.gov. Comments must be received by the public notice expiration date (September 17, 2026).

How to Request a Public Hearing:

Interested persons may request in writing that the Director of the Division of Water Resources hold a public hearing on any application. The request must be filed by the public notice expiration date (September 17, 2026) and must indicate the interest of the party filing it and the reasons why such a hearing is warranted. When there is significant public interest for a hearing, a hearing will be conducted according to Division of Water Resources Rule 0400-40-05-.06(12). Public hearings will be announced through another public notice.

How the Department will Proceed:

The Director of the Division of Water Resources will determine the final permit action after considering comments submitted during the comment period, the hearing record, if any, and the requirements of the Federal and State acts and regulations.

To Obtain Permit Details:

Copies of the application(s) and draft permit(s) are also available for public inspection on the DWR DataViewer https://dataviewers.tdec.tn.gov/pls/enf_reports/f?p=2005:34001, by contacting TDEC at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/contacts/about-field-offices.html> or by calling 1-888-891-TDEC (8332), or by visiting the following locations during normal business hours:

Environmental Field Office - Chattanooga

1301 Riverfront Parkway, Suite 206

Chattanooga, TN 37402

(423) 634-5745

Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie

Environmental Field Office - Columbia

1421 Hampshire Pike

Columbia, TN 38401

(931) 380-3371

Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshall, Maury, Moore, Perry, Wayr

Environmental Field Office - Cookeville

1844 Foreman Dr, Suite 101

Cookeville, TN 38501

(931) 432-4015

Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, De Kalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, Trousdale, Van Buren, Warren, White

Environmental Field Office - Jackson

1625 Hollywood Drive

Jackson, TN 38305

(731) 512-1300

Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Gibson, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Weakley

Environmental Field Office - Johnson City

2305 Silverdale Road

Johnson City, TN 37601

(423) 854-5400

Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington

Environmental Field Office - Knoxville

3711 Middlebrook Pike

Knoxville, TN 37921

(865) 594-6035

Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Union

Environmental Field Office - Memphis

8383 Wolf Lake Drive

Bartlett, TN 38133-4119

(901) 371-3000

Fayette, Hardeman, Shelby, Tipton

Environmental Field Office - Nashville

711 R.S. Gass Boulevard

Nashville, TN 37243

(615) 687-7000

Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Stewart, Sumn Williamson, Wilson

State of Tennessee Antidegradation Policy:

Antidegradation determinations have been made in regard to the permits referenced in this Public Notice. Tennessee's Antidegradation Statement is found in Chapter 0400-40-03-.06 of the Rules of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The primary purpose of the antidegradation policy is to establish a greater level of protection for those waters that are identified to be of high quality. Generally, there are two types of high quality waters. Some high quality waters are those at near pristine conditions. These Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRWs) are specifically designated by the Tennessee Board of Water Quality, Oil and Gas and are afforded the greatest level of protection. No new discharges or expansion of existing discharges are allowed to result in degradation of the existing water quality. Waters determined to be high quality due to specialized uses and/or unique features and are identified by the Department as Exceptional Tennessee Waters are also protected against degradation.

Some degradation may be allowed in the Exceptional Tennessee Waters only if the Tennessee Board of Water Quality, Oil and Gas deems it economically and socially necessary. Other surface waters not specifically identified and/or designated as high quality are referred to as waters with available or unavailable conditions. Generally, new discharges or increases in existing discharges may be allowed in waters not identified as ONRWs or Exceptional Tennessee Waters. The Division of Water Resource's evaluation of such discharges may include the following provisions:

- The proposed lowering of water quality by the discharge is necessary for economic growth or community benefit; the proposed discharge can not be mitigated by reasonable pollution prevention measures; and
- There is no other reasonable non-discharge alternative available to prevent the new/increased discharge to waters with available or unavailable conditions.

In all cases, the proposed discharge must meet water quality standards and fully protect all classified uses. Information used by the Division of Water Resources in evaluating any of the above provisions is available upon request.

State of Tennessee Policy of Non-Discrimination:

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's policy of non-discrimination, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service in its policies, or in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, services or activities. Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action inquiries or complaints should be directed to the EEO/AA Coordinator, Office of General Counsel at Davy Crockett Tower, 5th Floor, 500 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1102, 1-888-867-7455. ADA inquiries or complaints should be directed to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Division at Davy Crockett Tower, 5th Floor, 500 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1102, 1-866-253-5827. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service (1-800-848-0298).

If it is hard for you to read, speak, or understand English, TDEC may be able to provide translation or interpretation services free of charge. Please contact Mr. Brian Canada at 615-979-1406 or Brian.Canada@tn.gov for more information.

Si le resulta difícil leer, hablar o comprender inglés, TDEC puede proporcionarle servicios de traducción o interpretación sin cargo comunicándose con Brian Canada al 615-979-1406 o Brian.Canada@tn.gov.

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