

Virginia's Upcoming Changes, Including Environmental Justice

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Melanie and Viktoriiia will address regulatory changes on the horizon resulting from the 2026 Virginia General Assembly session with a focus on Environmental Justice requirements.





HB 1266

Environmental Justice in Permitting: Guidance Memo Update

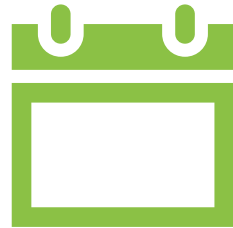
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Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

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HB 1266 Overview



Approved
April 8, 2026



Scope:

Directs DEQ to update the existing draft *Environmental Justice in the Permitting Process Guidance Memo*

- DEQ shall consider how to assess **cumulative impacts** of certain projects
- DEQ shall consider strategies to **engage** impacted communities

DEQ Actions and Timeline



DEQ publishes an updated Guidance Memo and opens the public comment period



DEQ hosts two public town hall meetings by July 31, 2006



Public comment period closes



DEQ responds to public comments by Oct. 31, 2026



DEQ releases finalized Guidance Memo by Dec. 31, 2026

DEQ Contact Information

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