

# What's In *Your* Water? A Discussion of Threats To Virginia's Water Quality

March 27-28, 2015 William and Mary School of Law

Presented by William & Mary School of Law's Environmental Law and Policy Review Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic

## What's In Your Water? A Discussion of Threats to Virginia's Water Quality

highlights some of the critical environmental, legal, and policy issues facing the quality and health of Virginia's waters. In spite of much progress from years of pollution prevention and pollution management, the health of the waters of Virginia remain under threat from traditional pollutants such as PCBs and pharmaceuticals and from new practices such as hydraulic fracturing and offshore oil drilling. These threats raise questions about not only water quality, but also public health, economic development, and quality of life.

What's In Your Water? will bring together The Honorable Robert Wittman, US Representative from District 1, and The Honorable Brian Moran, Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, along with a host of governmental (both federal and state), academic, industry, and NGO leaders and experts from across Virginia to address these issues.

### Register Now!!!

#### Friday, March 27

1:00 -	Welcome and Introduction
1:10	Davison M. Douglas, Ph.D., J.D., Dean, William & Mary Law School
	Ronald Rosenberg, J.D, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs,
	Chancellor Professor of Law and Director, American Legal System
	Graduate Program and Foreign Exchanges

1:10-	The Honorable Robert Wittman
2:00	US Representative, 1st District of Virginia
2:00- 3:30	Contaminants: PCBs, Mercury, Hormones, Pharmaceuticals, Household Products, Toxics  Peter deFur, Environmental Stewardship Concepts Scott Phillips, U.S. Geological Survey Jim Pletl, Director of Water Quality, Hampton Roads Sanitation District Mark Richards, Department of Environmental Quality Noah Sachs, Esq., Director, Robert R. Merhige Jr. Center for Environmental Studies, University of Richmond School of Law  Moderator: Rosemary Hambright, 2L  This discussion will focus on contaminants found in Virginia's waters, and their impacts on the environment and human health. This panel will probe the question of whether Virginia needs to consider new controls over these contaminants.
3:30-	Break
3:45 3:45- 4:05	David Paylor, Director, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
4:05- 5:20	Energy in Virginia: The Challenges of Coal Ash Sarah Fort, Associate Attorney, Southern Environmental Law Center Dr. John Daniels, Professor, University of North Carolina at Charlotte Dr. Damian Shea, Professor, North Carolina State University Cathy Taylor, Director Electric Environmental Services, Dominion  Moderator: Hannah Fish, 2L  The panel will consider the energy production needs of Virginia and the potential impacts of that production to Virginia's waters. It will incorporate a focus on coal ash litigation, the impacts of coal ash in the environment, coal ash regulations, and beneficial reuse of coal ash.
5:20	Adjournment for the day

## Saturday, March 28

8:00-	Registration and Breakfast
9:00	

9:00-	Welcome
9:10	Ronald Rosenberg, J.D, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Chancellor Professor of Law and Director, American Legal System Graduate Program and Foreign Exchanges
9:10- 10:00	The Honorable Brian Moran Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
10:00- 11:15	Offshore Oil Connie Gillette, Deputy Public Affairs Officer and Media Relations Manager, US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (Invited) The Honorable Alfonso Lopez, Virginia State Delegate for the 49 <sup>th</sup> House of Delegates District (Invited) The Honorable Frank Wagner, Virginia State Senator for the 7 <sup>th</sup> Senatorial District (Invited) Moderator: Garrett Gee, 2L
	The decision by the federal government to open portions of the Atlantic to offshore drilling has prompted strong opinions about threats to water quality, the need for energy independence, and the potential for economic development. Panelists will provide comments on the many sides of this controversial issue.
11:15 - 11:30	Break
11:30 – 12:45	Algae: Causes and Complications Dr. Paul Bukaveckas, Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University Jeff Corbin, Senior Advisor to the US EPA Administrator for Chesapeake Bay Will Hunley, Hampton Roads Sanitation District Peter Tango, Chesapeake Watershed Monitoring Coordinator, U.S. Geological Survey Joe Wood, Virginia Staff Scientist, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
	Moderator: Jason Kane, 3L  This panel will explore the causes of algal blooms, the threats they present to Virginia's waters, and steps being taken to address them.
12:45- 2:00	Luncheon Presentation: The Chesapeake Bay TMDL Litigation Jon Mueller, Esq., Vice President of Litigation, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
	Brooks M. Smith, Esq., Partner, Troutman Sanders
	Moderator: Melanie Davenport, Esq., Director, Water Quality

	Division, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
	The Chesapeake Bay TMDL is currently the subject of federal litigation. Both luncheon panelists have participated in that litigation and will share their perspectives from the opposing sides.
2:00-	Break
2:15	
2:15-	Fracking: Who Has the Authority to Regulate?
3:15	Kelci Block, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Virginia Attorney General
	Rick Parrish, Esq., Former Senior Attorney with the Southern
	Environmental Law Center
	Michael Skiffington, Program Support Manager, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy
	Moderator: Toren Elsen, 2L
	Fracking is a 'hot' topic in Virginia and opinions differ on where to allow drilling and the scope of existing regulatory authority. The panel will discuss the debates over the ability of state and local governments to regulate drilling.
3:15	Wrap Up

## **Registration Information**

Registration is required to attend. Seating is limited.

Please direct any questions to: Kristen Clark, ELPR Symposium Editor, at kaclark@email.wm.edu