VIRGINIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

ELECTRONIC MEETINGS
PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

WE NEED YOUR HELP--Please give us your feedback regarding how meetings using electronic communications technology compare to traditional meetings where everyone is present in the same room at the same time.

1. Name of the public body holding the meeting: Department of Environmental Quality Public Hearing, VWPP No. 19-2036, Proposed Wegmans Distribution Center Wetland Filling Permit.

2. Date of the meeting: July 20, 2020.

3. What are your overall thoughts or comments about this meeting? _A meeting with this much attention and public objection to the handling of the permit and wetlands delineation determination should have never been held in this type of manner. There has to be a better way to hold a virtual meeting if that is the only option you are giving the public._____

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4. Where did you attend this meeting -- main meeting location OR from a remote location? (circle one)

5. Technology used for the meeting (audio only or audio/visual, devices and/or software used--please be as specific as possible--for example, speakerphone, iPad, Skype, WebEx, Telepresence, etc.):

Ipad, I Phone, PC desktop, phone, and laptop as I had to switch each time I was disconnect from audio or video of meeting._____

6. Were you able to hear everyone who spoke at the meeting (members of the body and members of the public)?

Poor				Excellent
1	2	3	4	5

COMMENT_**Quality of audio was horrific.**_____

7. How easy was it for you to obtain agenda materials for this meeting?

Easy				Difficult
1	2	3	4	5

COMMENT_____

8. Could you hear/understand what the speakers said or did static, interruption, or any other technological problems interfere?

Easy Difficult
1 2 3 4 5

COMMENT___**Process of entire meeting was difficult. If you needed assistance due to technology issues you had to contact an outside party and wait. I know that some individuals did not get a response for 2 hours.**
_____

9. If the meeting used audio/visual technology, were you able to see all of the people who spoke?
Poorly Clearly
1 2 3 4 5

COMMENT_**Speakers for Public comments were not given a choice to use video to be seen. Totally unaccepatable!**_____

10. If there were any presentations (PowerPoint, etc.), were you able to hear and see them?
Poorly Clearly
1 2 3 4 5

COMMENT_____

11. Were the members as attentive and did they participate as much as you would have expected?
Less More
1 2 3 4 5

COMMENT_____**Only able to see to people during the entire meeting even though there were other partipants**_____

12. Were there differences you noticed in how the members interacted?
With the other members present:
Very Different No Difference
1 2 3 4 5
With members participating from other locations:
Very Different No Difference
1 2 3 4 5
With the public:
Very Different No Difference
1 2 3 4 5

COMMENT__**Depending on who was speaking I felt that some got more time to speak their concerns than others**_____

13. Did you feel the technology was a help or a hindrance?
Hindered Helped
1 2 3 4 5

COMMENT__**I had to call in 3 plus times as the meeting kept disconnecting or audio would quit. Made it very hard to hear all speakers**

_____

14. How would you rate the overall quality of this meeting?

Poor				Excellent
1	2	3	4	5

COMMENT____**There were too many speakers and concerns for this important PUBLIC meeting to be held virtually. There was no list of speakers to give you any idea when you be up or if you had been missed when you were repeatedly kicked off the meeting. I register to speak and my name was not even on the list. If I did not use the Raised Hand feature on the webex I would of not even been called to speak. What is the purpose of registering? We should have been provided a list of all registrants of this meeting and who had signed up to speak and there should have been an order of speakers. We are in PHASE III and there was plenty of opportunity to hold a public meeting IN PUBLIC. The vast majority of attendees in this meeting are in an area that lost our only cell tower on Ashcake Road that burned to the ground and now we are left without a lot of options for internet and phones services. I can only imaging the frustrations of those concerned residents that wanted to participate and had no other options to connect to this meeting.**

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THANK YOU. Please send your completed form by mail, facsimile or electronic mail to the FOIA Council using the following contact information:

Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council
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201 North 9th Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219
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