

State fines Potomac Shores for pollutant discharge

Developer pays penalty of more than \$16,500

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The state Department of Environmental Quality has fined the developer of Potomac Shores for unlawfully discharging pollutants into state waters during the project's construction.

The Woodbridge-based developer, Harbor Station Communities LLC, in March agreed to pay a \$16,537.50 fine after being served with a notice in July from the state DEQ saying the company could be in violation of water control laws, according to documents from the agency.

The Department of Environmental Quality published a public notice of the enforcement action in the April 20 edition of InsideNoVa/Prince William.

Brian English, a representative with the developer named in the violation notice, could not be reached for comment. Potomac Shores master developer Biddle Real Estate Ventures (BREV) said in a statement it's pleased to have reached a resolution.

"As required under our permit, we self-reported sediment runoff from a construction area following a major storm event in 2022 and have completed corrective measures and paid a fine related to the sediment runoff," the statement said. "We have maintained a strong record of environmental compliance through the many years

of work on-site."

During a site inspection last summer, agency officials observed 6 inches of accumulated sediment, a pollutant, in a stream channel and forest wetlands that appeared to be deposited downhill from where the development's construction was occurring, according to the notice.

The development, on a 334-acre parcel east of Dumfries on the Cherry Hill peninsula along the Potomac River, contains homes and a golf course.

Officials prior to that visit also observed violations at the site in years past. In August 2020, the agency found discharged sediment from the construction site in a nearby stream and wetland. Officials issued a warning to the developer days later requesting corrective action. Documents show another warning was issued in March 2021, when agency staff once more found sediment in state waters southeast of Cockpit Point Road.

"Harbor Station should have the knowledge and experience in the potential limitations/deficiencies with the onsite erosion and sediment controls and has full control over the ability to modify or add to said controls and failed to take adequate precautions to prevent the violations," DEQ officials wrote in a document.

Agency officials met with the developer last July to discuss the project and violations. The state requested that the developer submit a plan to correct the issue, which was ultimately filed, approved and implemented. Since then all corrective actions have been taken, documents show.

Sentara Health rebrands, unveils updated logo

The Sentara health care system, which operates a hospital and other facilities in the Woodbridge area of Prince William County, has changed its formal name to Sentara Health, although it will still refer to itself as Sentara.

In addition, Sentara has updated its logo.

In a news release, Sentara said the new name reflects its focus on promoting the overall health and well-being of its patients, members and communities. Sentara also operates two health plans – Optima Health and Virginia Premier – and said those brands will be retired by the end of the year and unified under the brand of Sentara Health Plans.

"Our new name and logo help us show our commitment to making healthcare simple, seamless, personal and more affordable," said Dennis Matheis, president

and CEO. "By leveraging both healthcare services and a variety of health plan options, we are creating greater access for consumers to receive high-quality healthcare."

The brand refresh follows more than a year of market research and communication with thousands of individuals and colleagues, Sentara said in the release.

The new logo retains elements of the original logo, including the gold "swoosh."

Sentara is among the top 20 largest not-for-profit integrated health systems in the country, with 30,000 employees, 12 hospitals in Virginia and northeastern North Carolina, and the Sentara Health Plans division, which serves more than 1.2 million members in Virginia and Florida. The system is based in Norfolk and in 2009 purchased the former Potomac Hospital in Woodbridge, now Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center.

