

# **VACo Environment, Energy, and Land Use Steering Committee**

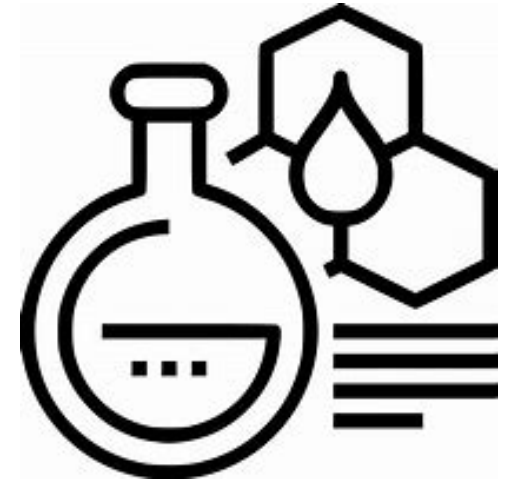
August 17, 2023

## **Update on 2023 General Assembly Actions**



# 2023 Virginia General Assembly Review

- **Testing for PFAS “Forever Chemicals”** - Directs DEQ to develop regulatory requirements for industries that have PFAS in their processes, and that discharge wastewater to publicly owned treatment plants, to test for PFAS in waste streams. Results of tests to be submitted within 3 days of receipt to the WWTP operator.
- **License reciprocity for water/wastewater plant operators** - Requires Virginia to recognize licenses or certifications issued by another state as fulfillment of qualifications for licensure in the Commonwealth.



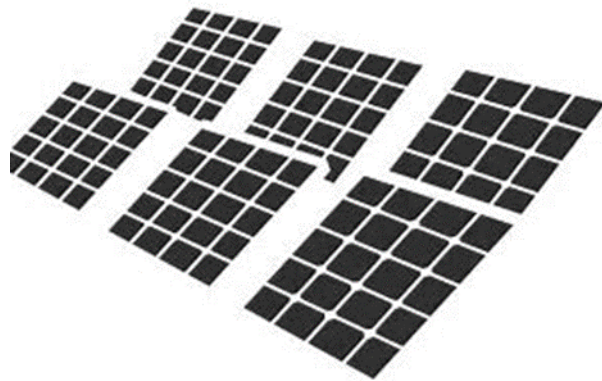
# 2023 Virginia General Assembly Review (cont.)

## **“Optional” Extension of Land Use Approvals for Solar**

Allows a local governing board, by resolution, to extend any land use approvals for solar projects “that were valid and outstanding as of July 1, 2023” to be extended until July 1, 2026, “or such longer period as may be agreed to by the locality”.

## **“Mandatory” Extension of ALL Land Use Approvals**

Extends from July 1, 2023, to July 1, 2025, the sunset date for previous local land use approvals that were valid and outstanding as of July 1, 2023.



# **2023 Virginia General Assembly Review (cont.)**

## **Annual Reports to Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)**

### **Local Housing Policy**

Requires all localities more than 3,500 population to submit annual report by September 1<sup>st</sup> to DHCD summarizing the adoption or amendment to the local comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance, subdivision ordinance and other policies affecting the construction of housing during the previous fiscal year.

### **Residential Land Development and Construction Fee Transparency**

Requires all localities more than 3,500 population to submit annual report by March 1<sup>st</sup> to DHCD containing the total fee revenue collected by the locality over the preceding calendar year in connection with processing, reviewing, and permitting of residential land development and construction activities.

**DHCD is required to make all reports available on its website.**

# 2023 Virginia General Assembly Review

## FAILED LEGISLATION

- **Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)** – Would have mandated that a single-family dwelling (SFD), or property that allows for SFD, be permitted to include an ADU.
- **Short-term rental (STR) property** – Would have exempted any STR rental property managed by a Virginia licensed realtor from complying with any STR ordinance.
- **Siting of Data Centers** – Would have prohibited localities from approving any data center within one mile of a national park, state park, or other historically significant site.
- **Stormwater/Data Centers** – Would have required more stringent stormwater management practices for data centers within one mile of any national park, state park, or state forest.