



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

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LIGHTWEIGHT AGGREGATE FACT SHEET DRAFT Scope

Background:

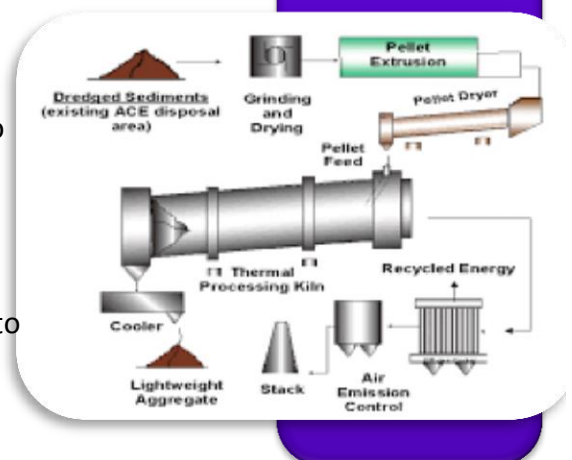
In 2010, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay. The TMDL identifies the level of pollutants (nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment) that the Bay can assimilate and still maintain water quality standards. Significant reductions are required in this pollutants are required to be made by 2025 to restore the health of the Bay.

The Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River has been trapping sediments since its completion in 1928. The sediments behind the dam have been identified as a major concern. The reservoir behind the dam is expected to reach its capacity for trapped sediments within the decade. With the sediments so high and deep behind the dam, large storms – such as Hurricane Agnes and Tropical Storm Lee – have scoured the sediment, sending it past the dam and into the Chesapeake Bay. The amount of pollutants sent into the Bay by one storm has the potential to negate millions of dollars worth of pollution reduction activities throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

State and federal agencies have been studying options for addressing this issue for several years. The option has been raised of dredging the materials behind the dam and reusing the materials to create lightweight aggregate for construction materials.

Overall Task:

Commissioners Weaver and Rothschild requested the EAC research lightweight aggregate as it relates to its application to the use of dredge materials in relation to sediment deposition behind the Conowingo Dam. The EAC will research the topic and develop a fact sheet, which covers what it is, how it may be used in this context, and any available, conceptual costs/benefits to the Bay restoration. This project was added to the EAC 2016 Work Plan at the January 21, 2016, annual joint meeting of the EAC and the Board of County Commissioners.



Source: www.harborrock.com

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The EAC will research how lightweight aggregate (LWA) can be beneficial to Bay restoration efforts, as well as some of the challenges for implementing this approach for this purpose and identify other information that may be needed to relate it to Carroll County.

The EAC may bring in one or more speakers to present on the topic to inform the members' work.

Work Product:

A Fact Sheet will be developed to give a brief overview of the topics to be addressed.

Timeline:

Completion anticipated in Fall 2016.



Source: www.behance.net