Maryland Department of the Environment
Antidegradation Review Report Form

Social and Economic Justification – Outline for Basic Projects

Purpose

This form is designed to help applicants assemble a complete social and economic justification (SEJ) to complete the Antidegradation Tier II Review when there are certain unavoidable impacts to water quality. Pursuant to COMAR 26.08.02.04-1 (J), applicants must submit an SEJ if "(a) No cost effective alternative to the discharge is available; or (b) The cumulative degradation resulting from nonpoint source pollution and any other permitted discharges would diminish water quality". Therefore, if impacts cannot be fully avoided, minimized, or mitigated, the applicant may have to provide MDE with an SEJ. The SEJ must demonstrate that an economic hardship and/or public benefit overrides the value of the ecological services or water quality benefit that the Tier II water segment provides. The applicant must also provide documentation to show that all reasonable avoidance, minimization, and mitigation alternatives have been considered, and where economically feasible, implemented.

The Department will use this information to determine whether or not the SEJ is complete, if it adequately justifies the impact to water quality, and to make a final permit determination. MDE may provide additional comments during the course of the review.

- **Introduction**
  - Project Summary
  - Impacts
  - Antidegradation Policy
  - Document purpose

- **Socioeconomic Contributions of the Project**
  - Economic Importance and Benefit
    - Economic Impacts- During Construction
    - Economic Impacts –During Operations
    - Fiscal Impacts –Development Phase
    - Fiscal Impacts –During Operations
  - Social Importance and Benefit
    - Widespread social benefits to the community affected
    - Contributions to environment

- **Socioeconomic Benefits of High Quality Waters (as applicable)**
  - Social importance and benefit
    - Impacts on property value
    - Recreation value
    - Other quality of life benefits
  - General Evaluation of Economic Impacts of Restoring Degraded Stream Resources, including impacts to resources necessary to maintain high quality waters
    - Costs of 1:1 in-kind mitigation for all net forest cover loss based on area market value
    - Estimated cost of stream restoration, per linear foot, based on area market value

- **Conclusion**

- **References & Appendices as needed**