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Media Contact:

Kari Dolan, Clean Water Initiative Program
(802) 490-6113 | anr.cleanwatervt@vermont.gov

State Seeks Input on Draft Plan to Restore Lake Champlain

Public Meetings Scheduled for End of August

MONTPELIER — The State of Vermont is seeking comments on a draft implementation plan for the restoration of Lake Champlain. The plan, entitled “Vermont Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL Phase 1 Implementation Plan,” outlines actions the State must take to reduce phosphorus pollution sources that currently compromise State waters. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a set of phosphorus pollution targets in June that the State must meet in its phase 1 plan.

The greatest threat to Lake Champlain’s water quality is excess phosphorous carried into waters by runoff and erosion from rainfall and snowmelt. Excess phosphorus causes algae blooms, which can hinder swimming, fishing and other recreational uses, decrease property values, and threaten human health. The new pollution targets set by the EPA, called Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), ensure a long-term path towards restored water quality in the lake.

The State will host three public informational meetings in South Burlington, St. Albans, and Rutland at the end of August to solicit feedback on the final draft of the Phase 1 Implementation Plan. Interested persons are encouraged to attend to learn more about the State’s action plan.

Lake Champlain TMDLs Phase 1 Implementation Plan Public Informational Meetings		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
August 29, 2016	1:00 – 3:00 pm	South Burlington DoubleTree Hotel 1117 Williston Road, South Burlington
August 29, 2016	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Bliss Room, St. Albans Historical Society 9 Church Street, St. Albans City
August 30, 2016	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Room 266, Asa Bloomer Building 88 Merchants Row, Rutland

Comments on the plan will be accepted through September 7, 2016. Those unable to attend a public meeting can send comments on the draft plan by e-mail or mail.

Email comments to anr.cleanwatervt@vermont.gov or mail to:

Attention: Vermont Clean Water Initiative Program
Watershed Management Division
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522

For EPA information on the **Vermont Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDLs**, visit:
<https://www.epa.gov/tmdl/lake-champlain-phosphorus-tmdl-commitment-clean-water>

The **Phase 1 Implementation Plan** and additional information on Lake Champlain's restoration effort is posted at: <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi/restoring>.

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