

AQUACON COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Topic #1 – Location, Planning, and Design (Submitted Questions 1, 4, 8)

Please walk us through the thought process of choosing Federalsburg as a place to build, and determining the site of the proposed facility.

- Are there plans or architectural designs that the public can see of what this will look like?
- How much traffic is expected to be created? What kind of traffic will this be and what route will it take?

Topic #2 – Odor Control (Submitted Questions 2, 3, 5)

There are several concerns about any possible odor that the plant will produce:

- Will the plant itself create an odor due to the volume of water and volume of salmon present on a daily basis?
- Will there be an odor from processing?
- Will there be an odor from the production of methane gas that will be produced?
- What steps or design features will eliminate any odors and ensure compliance with the odor portions of the Town's Zoning Ordinance?
- Will there be odor created from your wastewater strategy, especially if it is irrigated onto surrounding land?

Topic #3 – Expected Benefits of AquaCon (Submitted Questions 7, 9, 10, 23, 24, 29)

Town residents are aware that the proposed AquaCon facility will create somewhere between 100-200 jobs. What other benefits will the Town and surrounding area see from this project?

- Of the jobs created, how many will actually be available to the community at large, not requiring advanced degrees?
- Will the company support local colleges in creating workforce investment programs? How will the company "pour into" the community?
- What benefits will citizens see beyond job creation?
- How will you be a good neighbor?
- Will AquaCon assist residents if their well goes dry?
- What effect will it have on the wells and irrigation to surrounding farms and individual properties? Sinkholes have occurred elsewhere with the similar level of withdrawal from underground aquifers.
- Should residents expect a negative impact on their property values?

Topic #4 – Environmental Impact (Submitted Questions 7, 12, 13, 15, 17, 25, 26, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46)

The health of the Marshy Hope Creek, surrounding waterways, the endangered Atlantic Sturgeon, and other considerations are of major concern to the Town and residents, as is the impact on ecological tourism and recreational use of the waterway.

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- No project is without risk, and companies perform risk analysis as they plan and design. What risks has AquaCon identified as potential risks to the Marshy Hope Creek, Nanticoke River, and Chesapeake Bay?
- AquaCon is proposing a design that seems to be based on new technology (as evidenced by the idea that there is not a plant like this that we can visit and see for ourselves). In that light, what data is available about any chemicals used in the process and any possible chemical reactions that may be present in the runoff/discharge created?
- What are the Long term effects to ground water and surface water.
- Exactly how often will you discharge into the Marshy Hope Creek? What is the volume of the discharge? Are there simulations available on what this discharge will look like?
- Does Dr. Yonathan Zohar have a paid role with AquaCon?
- In a recent article, Dr. Zohar was quoted as saying “in two or 3 years, technology will have improved enough we might not even have to discharge into the Marshyhope”. Why not put more effort into achieving that instead of spending the money to discharge into the Creek.
- What is the plan for the tons of fish waste that will be generated?
- How will salinity be used in the plant? How will salinity be stripped from discharges through the Federalsburg treatment plant and in purge discharges?
- How will the temperature and chemistry of discharge be monitored?
- Who will determine what is acceptable for the river?
- How will impact to the river and wildlife be monitored?
- How will the impact to the water supply be monitored and who determines what is acceptable?
- Can the results of the monitoring be published via a website for community review?
- What is the exact location of the discharge point?

Topic #5 – Contingencies (Submitted Questions 11, 30, 31)

As part of the risk management strategy of a process of this scope, well thought out and researched contingency plans must be available. Please walk us through these plans as they stand now:

- If there is a large fish die/kill, how/where are they disposed of?
- What is the plan for loss of power?
- What happens if this massive building is constructed and the salmon farm is not successful?
- Should AquaCon abandon the project, will there be a exit strategy or a bond to ensure that this plant does not become a town liability?

Topic #6 – Water Management (Submitted Questions 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 40)

Whether we are talking of the water under the roof, the water discharged into the Creek, or the

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runoff water on such a massive building, there are considerable questions about your plans to manage and control this much water and the impacts on this volume of water being taken out of the aquifer.

- Our town is notorious for flooding from high rains and storms already. What would this 2.3 million gallons of daily discharge do to the already occurring problem?
- An inch of rainfall on this facility could produce up to 750,000 gallons of runoff. How will AquaCon handle stormwater runoff?
- Where are you with the stormwater management plan as far as the county and the Town permitting process?
- Can this runoff be harnessed to use with the water replacement instead of drawing from the ground?
- How often will you need to pull water from the wells after the initial start-up?
- There have been reports that the 2.3 mgpd discharge into the Marshy Hope Creek represents 1% of the total water being used by the facility. Exactly how much water will be under your roof at any given time?
- How much water will be taken from the aquifer each day?
- How many wells are you planning on drilling?
- How will this damage or deplete the aquifer?
- The Marshyhope is a very small tributary with complex tidal and ebb flow dynamics. Without a hydrodynamic study of thermal mixing and dilution of discharge water, how can it be concluded that 2.3 million gallons per day will not impact the critical habitat of Atlantic Sturgeon? Please describe the data used to come to this conclusion

Topic #7 – Permitting (Submitted Questions 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37)

A project of this magnitude requires multiple permits and various agency oversight. Please provide an update to the following:

- What department(s) in Maryland will oversee the operation and ensure compliance but also that all agreements are met?
- Where are you in the application process with the withdraw permit? (State Issued)
- Where are you in the application process with the permit for putting the pipe in the state ROW (State Issued)
- Where are you in the application process with the permit for the Wetlands? (State Issued)
- Where are you in the application process with the permit for Construction of water and sewer infrastructure? (State Issued)
- What options have been considered so you don't have to discharge into the river and go through the permit process for Discharge, Wetlands, State ROW etc

Four questions were submitted (Submitted Questions 6, 14, 38, 47) that are appropriately answered by the Mayor and Council and not AquaCon representatives:

- Are there waivers being given to the facility for water and sewer hook up or will AquaCon pay their fair share and help the town in some way?

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- A: AquaCon has not requested any waivers, tax credits, or other incentives associated with this project. The Mayor and Council have no intention to offer any incentives, as has been communicated to AquaCon, County, and State officials.
- Are financial statements available for town officials to review?
 - A: The Mayor and Council have not received any financial statements for review, and at this point have no request from AquaCon that requires a vote for which the financial statements would be relevant to make a decision. Should AquaCon make a request to the Mayor and Council, we will request any relevant information to aid in that decision-making process.
- Where are you with the process of permits from the Town? Well? Discharge?
 - A: To date, AquaCon has not applied for any permits to be issued by the Town of Federalsburg.
- What responsibility does AquaCon or the Town have if the wells of surrounding community members go dry?
 - A: This concern will need to be discussed and researched as part of AquaCon's application to drill and operate a well for industrial purposes, which is a town-issued permit. The Town's ordinance specifically states that the Mayor and Council must take into account the impact on the public water supply and the operation of the municipal water system in determining the conditions upon which an industrial well permit may be issued.

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1. Why did you choose Federalsburg?
2. Will the plant itself create an odor?
3. Will the methane gas produced create an odor?
4. Are there plans drawn up already that show the lay out of the plant with landscaping, natural barriers etc?
5. If the overflow of wastewater is irrigated onto surrounding land will there be an odor?
6. Are there waivers being given to the facility for water and sewer hook up or will AquaCon pay their fair share and help the town in some way?
7. What benefits will citizens see (beyond job creation)? In reading the article, this is new technology and a new way of farming fish.... is there sufficient research and data about the chemicals used and possible chemical reactions that may be present in the runoff/discharge created?
8. How much traffic will be created from the facility?
9. Will the company support local colleges in creating workforce investment programs? How will the company "pour into" the community?
10. Of the 150 jobs, how many will actually be available to the community at large, not requiring advanced degrees?
11. If there is a large fish die/kill, how/where are they disposed of?
12. Does Yonathan Zohar have a paid role with AquaCon?
13. In a recent article, Dr. Zohar was quoted as saying "in two or 3 years, technology will have improved enough we might not even have to discharge into the Marshyhope". Why not put more effort into achieving that instead of spending the money to discharge into the river, possible causing environmental issues?
14. Are financial statements available for town officials to review?
15. The Marshyhope Creek is shallow and fragile. This could pose a serious threat to Marshyhope water quality and its habitat. What are the Risks to the Marshy hope Creek, Nanticoke River and Chesapeake Bay?
16. There is concern about the ability of the waterway to drain properly. The last time the Marshyhope was dredged was in the late 1960's and the creek has filled up with more silt over the years. No plans to ever dredge the creek again. – I AM CHECKING ON THE LAST TIME WE DREDGED – I thought it was recent since there are pylons across from the floating kayak launch
17. How often will you discharge?
18. Our town is notorious for flooding from high rains and storms already. What would this 2.3 million gallons of wastewater per day dump do to the already occurring problem?
19. This plant will be the size of 6 Super WalMarts. During heavy rains there will be heavy runoff which will end up in the Marshyhope. An inch of rainfall on this facility could produce up to 750,000 gallons of runoff. How will AquaCon handle stormwater runoff? Where are you with the storm water management plan as far as the county and the Town permitting process?
20. Can this runoff be harnessed to use with the water replacement instead of drawing from the ground?
21. How often will you need to pull water from the wells after the initial start-up?
22. If 1 % of the wastewater runoff per day is 2.3 million gallons, what is the other 99% drawing from the aquafer?

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23. What effect will it have on the wells and irrigation to surrounding farms and individual properties? Sinkholes have occurred elsewhere with the similar level of withdrawal from underground aquifers.
24. Will AquaCon assist residents if their well goes dry?
25. What is the plan for the tons of fish waste that will be generated?
26. What are the Long term effects to ground water and surface water .
27. How many wells are you planning on drilling?
28. How will this damage or deplete the aquifer?
29. What kind of negative effect will this have on property values?
30. What is the plan for loss of power?
31. What happens if this massive building is constructed and the salmon farm is not successful? Are we left with this unusable structure?
32. What department(s) in Maryland will oversee the operation and ensure compliance but also that all agreements are met?
33. Where are you in the application process with the withdraw permit? (State Issued)
34. Where are you in the application process with the permit for putting the pipe in the state ROW (State Issued)
35. Where are you in the application process with the permit for the Wetlands? (State Issued)
36. Where are you in the application process with the permit for Construction of water and sewer infrastructure? (State Issued)
37. What options have been considered so you don't have to discharge into the river and go through the permit process for Discharge, Wetlands, State ROW etc
38. Where are you with the process of permits from the Town? Well? Discharge?
39. How will salinity be used in the plant? How will salinity be stripped from discharges through the Federalsburg treatment plant and in purge discharges?
40. The Marshyhope is a very small tributary with complex tidal and ebb flow dynamics. Without a hydrodynamic study of thermal mixing and dilution of discharge water, how can it be concluded that 2.3 million gallons per day will not impact critical habitat of Atlantic Sturgeon?
41. How will the temperature and chemistry of discharge be monitored?
42. Who will determine what is acceptable for river?
43. How will impact to river and wildlife be monitored?
44. How will the impact to the water supply be monitored and who determines what is acceptable?
45. Can the results of the monitoring be published via a website for community review?
46. What is the exact location of the discharge point?
47. What responsibility does AquaCon or the Town have if the wells of surrounding homeowners go dry?