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### **Rhodamine® Dye to be Released in the Warwick and James Rivers**

(Newport News, Va.--) On April 25, 2010 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, working with the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), will release approximately 40 gallons of Rhodamine® dye through HRSD's discharge pipe from their wastewater treatment facility located at the mouth of the Warwick River in Newport News. This dye will cause a readily visible, large reddish-brown plume to extend from the mouth of the Warwick River out into the James River along the north shore of the James down toward the James River Bridge. The dye is nontoxic and will not affect shellfishing, swimming, boating etc.

The dye is being released as part of a cooperative investigation among these agencies and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. The study is designed to determine the dilution characteristics of the wastewater effluent and to learn more about the microbiological organisms that may be in the wastewater. This information will help VDH to better understand the uptake of these organisms in shellfish and will also provide field data to inform size recommendations for potential condemnations of shellfish harvesting.

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