

Chesapeake Bay Ordinance Review Committee (CBORC) – FAQs

Who is CBORC?

CBORC is composed of 5 Arlington County citizens representing the environmental and development communities.

When do they meet?

CBORC meets upon demand to hear exception requests. Generally, 5-7 weeks is needed to schedule CBORC for an exception hearing.

How much time does obtaining a CBORC exception add to the plan review process?

The CBORC exception process can be integrated into the plan review schedule and occur at the same time as other components of the plan review process. However, the County advises applicants to expect obtaining a CBORC exception to add approximately 8 weeks to the plan review process.

When is a plan ready for the exception hearing?

Staff work with applicants to achieve a development plan that is likely to obtain the desired exception. Typically, the earlier staff are involved in the plan development process, the faster this point is reached. Most commonly, the CBORC hearing is held after the 1st plan review submission, but prior to the 2nd submission. Comments received during the 1st submission can then be incorporated into the plan provided to CBORC for the exception hearing. For site plans and use permits requiring County Board approval, the CBORC exception hearing is typically held prior to the County Board hearing.

What is the process for making an exception request?

An exception request is initiated through completion of the Water Quality Impact Assessment and Exception Request Forms – <http://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2013/12/Water-Quality-Impact-Assessment-Data-Sheet-and-Exception-Request.pdf>

Describe the exception process.

The prepared development plan along with the staff report for the exception request must be available for public review for 10 business days prior to the scheduled exception hearing. Public notice to all adjacent property owners, the civic association where the property is located, and the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Council (NCAC) representative (if application) is required by certified mail return receipt with sufficient notice for these individuals to communicate and participate in the public review period. Staff typically require that public notification occur at least 2 weeks prior to the beginning of the public review period. During the public review period, CBORC members participate in a scheduled site visit to the project location. The information from the site visit, the staff report and attachments (consisting of relevant sheets from the development plan) as well as testimony from the applicant and staff are considered by CBORC during the hearing. CBORC may grant the request as presented or with conditions, or may refuse to grant the exception request. A formal exception request response letter outlining any imposed conditions in detail should be received by the applicant within 2 weeks of the exception request.

If my exception is granted, what happens next?

If CBORC imposes conditions upon the exception request, those conditions must be reflected in the next plan submission for plan approval. The formal CBORC approval letter response letter should be included in full in the plan submission.