

# Groundwater Withdrawal Permitting Fact Sheet

**Purpose:**

The Virginia General Assembly determined that the continued and unrestricted usage of groundwater is contributing and will contribute to pollution and shortage of groundwater, thereby jeopardizing the public's welfare, safety and health. The Groundwater Management Act of 1992 was adopted in order to conserve, protect and beneficially utilize the groundwater of the Commonwealth and to ensure the public's welfare, safety and health, management and control of groundwater resources is essential.

Groundwater is regulated under the [Ground Water Management Act of 1992](#) (Code of Virginia, Title 62.1, Chapter 25) and the Groundwater Withdrawal Regulations (9 VAC 25-610-10 et seq.), through the Groundwater Withdrawal Permitting Program in defined Groundwater Management Areas (GWMA).

**Groundwater Management Areas:**

Currently, there are two Groundwater Management Areas:

- The Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area comprises an area east of Interstate 95.
- The Eastern Shore Groundwater Management Area includes Accomack and Northampton counties.

The following table lists the counties and cities included in the designated groundwater management areas.

| <b>Groundwater Management Areas in Virginia</b>  |                        |                  |                    |
|--|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b><u>Eastern Shore Groundwater Management Area</u></b> includes the following counties:               |                        |                  |                    |
| Accomack and Northampton   |                        |                  |                    |
| <b><u>Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area</u></b> includes the following counties and cities: |                        |                  |                    |
| Caroline*  | Charles City           | Chesterfield*    | Essex              |
| Fairfax*   | Gloucester             | Hanover*         | Henrico*           |
| Isle of Wight  | James City             | King George      | King William       |
| King and Queen   | Lancaster              | Mathews          | Middlesex          |
| New Kent   | Northumberland         | Prince George    | Prince William*    |
| Richmond   | Southampton            | Spotsylvania*    | Stafford*          |
| Surry  | Sussex                 | Westmoreland     | York               |
| City of Chesapeake   | City of Franklin       | City of Hampton  | City of Hopewell   |
| City of Newport News   | City of Norfolk        | City of Poquoson | City of Portsmouth |
| City of Suffolk  | City of Virginia Beach |                  |                    |
| <b>*Only those portions east of I-95 are included in the GWMA</b>                                      |                        |                  |                    |

**Who will need to obtain a Groundwater Withdrawal Permit?**

All persons who withdraw more than 300,000 gallons of groundwater in any month in designated groundwater management areas must obtain a groundwater withdrawal permit

**How long is a permit valid?**

All Groundwater Withdrawal Permits are issued for a maximum ten (10) year term.

**Permit Fee Requirements:**

| Type of Groundwater Permit   | Issuance/Reissuance | Modification |
|--|---------------------|--------------|
| Agricultural Withdrawals   | No Fee              | No Fee       |
| Historic Permits<br>(Initial permit for an existing withdrawal based solely on historic withdrawals) | \$1,200.00          | \$600.00     |
| New or Expanded Groundwater Withdrawal Permits   | \$6,000.00          | \$3,000.00   |

## Expansion of the Groundwater Management Area

On January 1, 2014 the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area was expanded. As a result, all persons in the expanded area withdrawing or having withdrawn groundwater on or before January 1, 2014 in excess of 300,000 gallons per month (from well, well system or a pond recharged by groundwater with mechanical assistance) shall apply for an Existing Users Groundwater Withdrawal Permit to continue your withdrawal.

To continue your withdrawal as an existing user you must submit a complete application. The application must meet the requirements in 9VAC25-610-92 and be received by the Groundwater Withdrawal Permitting Program by **June 30, 2014**. Applications can be mailed to:

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Office of Water Supply - GWPP  
P. O. Box 1105  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

## Existing Users Benefits

By submitting a complete application prior to the June 30, 2014 the following apply.

You will be:

- Granted withdrawal limits related to your historic withdrawal amounts for the first permit term
- Be charged a lower application fee for the Existing Users Groundwater Withdrawal Permit

You will not be required to:

- Attend a pre-application meeting prior to submittal of the application
- Perform technical evaluations including aquifer tests or other hydrogeologic tests to complete the application package
- Submit mitigation or water conservation and management plans with your application
- Conduct an evaluation for the lowest quality water needed for the intended beneficial use will be required
- Provide an alternative water supply source evaluation for the proposed withdrawal
- Meet the public participation requirements (public notice and/or public hearing) for permit issuance

## Who to contact for additional information:

| Contacts   | Assigned Territories  |
|--|---|
| <b>Craig Nicol</b> , Program Manager<br>(804) 698-4214<br><a href="mailto:Craig.Nicol@deq.virginia.gov">Craig.Nicol@deq.virginia.gov</a>               |   |
| <b>Hank Ghittino</b> , Permit Writer<br>(757) 518-2197<br><a href="mailto:Hank.Ghittino@deq.virginia.gov">Hank.Ghittino@deq.virginia.gov</a>           | Accomack, Chesapeake, Norfolk, Northampton, Virginia Beach  |
| <b>Erinn Tisdale</b> , Permit Writer<br>(804) 698-4066<br><a href="mailto:C.Erinn.Tisdale@deq.virginia.gov">C.Erinn.Tisdale@deq.virginia.gov</a>       | Fairfax, James City, King George, New Kent, Lancaster, Northumberland, Prince William, Stafford, Westmorland  |
| <b>Bhudeo Sinha PhD.</b> , Permit Writer<br>(804) 698-4229<br><a href="mailto:Bhudeo.Sinha@deq.virginia.gov">Bhudeo.Sinha@deq.virginia.gov</a>         | Caroline, Charles City, Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, King William, Prince George, Spotsylvania, Surry, Sussex  |
| <b>Brenda Brown</b> , Permit Writer<br>(757) 518-2188<br><a href="mailto:Brenda.Brown@deq.virginia.gov">Brenda.Brown@deq.virginia.gov</a>              | Essex, Franklin, Gloucester, Hampton, Isle of Wight, Ivor, King & Queen, Mathews, Middlesex, Newport News, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Richmond Co., Southampton, Suffolk, Williamsburg, York |
| <b>Previn Smith</b> , Compliance and Enforcement<br>(804) 698-4027<br><a href="mailto:Previn.Smith@deq.virginia.gov">Previn.Smith@deq.virginia.gov</a> | All areas within the Groundwater Management Areas   |

For information and forms for groundwater permitting, visit the DEQ website at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Program/Water/WaterSupplyWaterQuantity/gwpermitting>