



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Street address: 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218

Fax: 804-698-4019 - TDD (804) 698-4021

www.deq.virginia.gov

Douglas W. Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

(804) 698-4020
1-800-592-5482

December 26, 2013

TO: Mayors, Chairmen, and Directors

SUBJECT: Expansion of the Groundwater Management Area (9VAC25-600-10 et seq.) and Amendments to the Groundwater Withdrawal Regulations (9VAC25-610-10 et seq.) become effective January 1, 2014.

This letter is to notify you as per 9VAC25-610-80(D) that review of the following three regulatory actions were completed on October 10, 2013 and will become effective on January 1, 2013. (1) Eastern Virginia Ground Water Management Area (9VAC25-600), (2) Ground Water Withdrawal Regulations (9VAC25-610) and (3) Order Declaring the Eastern Shore of Virginia - Accomack and Northampton Counties - as a Critical Ground Water Area (9VAC25 - 620).

The regulatory actions for 9VAC25-600 et.seq and 9VAC25-620 resulted in the expansion of the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area (GWMA) to include the remaining portion of Virginia's coastal plain. This adds the following localities to the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area - all of Essex, Gloucester, King George, King and Queen, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland counties and the areas east of Interstate 95 in Caroline, Fairfax, Prince William, Spotsylvania and Stafford counties. Additionally, the adopted amendments to the Groundwater Withdrawal Regulations are more consistent with other water permitting programs within the Agency and allow for improved administrative and application processing practices.

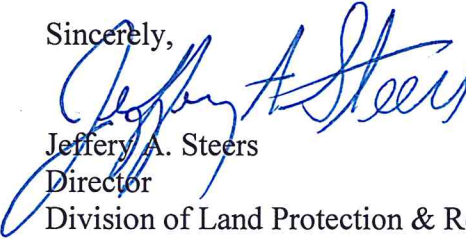
As a result of these changes you may be asked about the expansion the GWMA or other groundwater related topics. I would like to share with you that program staff is currently working to revise documents, finalize contact lists, generate information packages and fact sheets to answer questions and provide guidance and direction to those affected by the expansion.

Program staff will be mailing letters the first of the year to that list of potential applicants and begin a coordinated effort to provide early assistance in the application process.

These three actions currently appear in the Virginia Register of Regulations and are available at: <http://townhall.virginia.gov/l/viewchapter.cfm?chapterid=1445&display=chapterinfo> for the Eastern Groundwater Management Area (9VAC25-600), <http://townhall.virginia.gov/l/viewchapter.cfm?chapterid=1451&display=chapterinfo> for the Groundwater Withdrawal Regulations (9VAC25-610), and <http://townhall.virginia.gov/l/viewchapter.cfm?chapterid=1461&display=chapterinfo> for the, Order Declaring the Eastern Shore of Virginia – Accomack and Northampton Counties – as a critical Ground Water Area (9VAC25-620).

If you should have any questions please contact Scott Kudlas at (804)-698-4456 or Craig Nicol at (804) 698-4214.

Sincerely,



Jeffery A. Steers

Director

Division of Land Protection & Revitalization

Enclosure: Groundwater Withdrawal Permitting Fact Sheet