

DAAAlert...about Water Supply Planning



A Publication of **Draper Aden Associates**

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Final Draft Approved

Local & Regional Water Supply Planning Regulation

The Department of Environmental Quality began looking at ways to improve water supply planning due to the 1999-2002 drought period that negatively impacted a large part of Virginia. This effort resulted in SB 1221 (2003) that requires the DEQ to develop a state water resources plan.

The State Water Control Board approved a draft regulation for public comment on December 2, 2004. The final regulation was approved on June 28, 2005 by the Board. It will now go through executive review and the DEQ hopes the regulation will go into effect in late summer or early fall of this year. The following is a general summary of plan requirements:

All local governments, towns, cities and counties shall submit for approval a local water supply plan either individually or shall participate in a regional water supply plan. A plan will be developed to:

- 1.) Ensure the availability of safe and adequate drinking water,
- 2.) Protect and encourage beneficial uses of water,
- 3.) Promote and encourage alternative water sources,
- 4.) Promote conservation.

The schedules for local programs to be submitted to the DEQ are based on population with the exception of a regional effort. Regionally based plans are required to be submitted no later than six years after the effective date. The following table shows the required schedule for individual efforts.

Locality Population	Deadline
> 35,000	2008
< 35,000 but > 15,000	2009
15,000 or less	2010

Submitted water supply plans shall include the following elements:

- 1.) A description of existing water sources,
- 2.) A description of existing water use,
- 3.) A description of existing water resource conditions,
- 4.) An assessment of projected water demand,
- 5.) A description of water management actions,
- 6.) A statement of need,
- 7.) An analysis that identifies potential alternatives for any projected deficits in water supplies,
- 8.) A map or maps identifying important elements of the program,
- 9.) A copy of the adopted program documents, i.e. ordinances or amendments that incorporate the plan,
- 10.) A resolution approving the plan from each participating entity,
- 11.) A record of the local public hearing.

For more information about the new regulation you can go to www.deq.virginia.gov or call Scott Kudlas (DEQ) at (804) 698-4456. For information about water supply planning please contact Fred Pribble (fpribble@daa.com) at (804) 264-2228 or Mike Lawless (mlawless@daa.com) at (540) 552-0444.

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