

Area Under Regulation to Expand **Proposed Regulation Changes Will Affect Ground Water Permitting in Eastern Virginia**

New information about declining ground water levels in parts of the Coastal Plain of Virginia has led the Virginia State Water Control Board (SWCB) to propose regulatory changes that will impact groundwater management in the eastern part of the Commonwealth.

Ground water levels in parts of eastern Virginia have declined to the point they are nearing aquifer tops. Withdrawing ground water to the point that it falls below the top of the aquifer can impair the aquifer's ability to store water in the future, potentially impact existing water usage and future growth, and create ground subsidence.

The SWCB is proposing to amend 9VAC25-600-20, Eastern Virginia Ground Water Management Area, to add 11 new counties, parts of three others and one city to the Eastern Virginia Ground Water Management Area. This would put the entire Coastal Plain of Virginia under regulatory control for ground water withdrawals exceeding 300,000 gallons per month.

A map of the Eastern Virginia Ground Water Management Area proposed expansion can be viewed at www.daa.com/portfolio/enviro.htm.

The second proposed regulatory change is to amend 9VAC25-610, Ground Water Withdrawal Regulations, to address new information concerning the Coastal Plain aquifer system, changes to the Virginia DEQ review process and the increasing demand on Virginia's ground water sources.

Three NOIRA (Notice of Intended Regulatory Action) public meetings are scheduled in August to address the intended changes to both regulations. Go to www.daa.com/portfolio/enviro.htm to see locations and times of the meetings.

The SWCB is accepting public comments on both proposed regulatory actions until 5 P.M. August 5, 2009. You may direct your comments to Melissa Porterfield, DEQ, P.O. Box 1105, Richmond Virginia, 23218 or by email at Melissa.porterfield@deq.virginia.gov. To access the Virginia Register of Regulations go to <http://register.dls.virginia.gov>.

For More Info



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