Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the withdrawal of ground water in Lancaster, Virginia.
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: July 31, 2025 to September 2, 2025
PERMIT NAME: Ground Water Withdrawal Permit issued by DEQ pursuant to applicable water laws and regulations
APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Aqua Virginia, Inc.; 2414 Granite Ridge Rd., Rockville, VA 23146; GWI000477
NAME AND LOCATION OF WATER WITHDRAWAL: Weems Public Water System; Parcels #33-161E, #33-152, and #33-91A, Weems, VA 22576
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Aqua Virginia, Inc. has applied for a reissuance of a permit for the Weems Public Water System. The permit would authorize the applicant to withdraw a maximum of 14,400,000 gallons per year and 1,940,000 gallons per month from the Potomac aquifer. The ground water withdrawal will support a public water supply for the Town of Weems. The top of the Potomac aquifer at the proposed withdrawal site was determined to be 537 feet below land surface. An aquifer is a body of rock or layer of sediment in the ground in which ground water is stored and transported. DEQ has made a tentative decision to issue the permit. The draft permit can be viewed at https://www.deq.virginia.gov/permits/public-notices/water/water-withdrawal.
AFFECTED AREA: The radial distance from the wells to where computer modeling predicts the aquifer may experience one foot of drawdown due to the withdrawal does not extend beyond the applicant's property.
HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by hand-delivery, e-mail, or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses or email addresses of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.
CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: James Peed; Central Office, P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, VA 23218; Phone: 804-839-8227; E-mail: james.peed@deq.virginia.gov. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above {by appointment} or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.

Weems Public Water System
Area of Impact - Potomac Aquifer

Potomac AOI

0 0.07 0.15 0.3 Miles

Simulated drawdown at or exceeding one foot in the Potomac aquifer resulting from a withdrawal of 14,400,000 gallons per year for 50 years from the Potomac aquifer using a two-dimensional Hantush-Jacob (1955) simulation.

Maximum radius of one-foot drawdown (Area of Impact) occurs approximately 30 feet from the pumping center.

Technical Evaluation performed by Aquaveo, LLC for the Virginia DEQ, Office of Water Supply Planning
June 2, 2025

DEQ
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Commonwealth of Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

www.deq.virginia.gov

Stefanie K. Taillon
Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Michael S. Rolband, PE, PWD, PWS Emeritus
Director

July 30, 2025

RE: Local Government Notification of Proposed Draft Groundwater Withdrawal Permit GWI000477

Dear Local Official:

The Department of Environmental Quality has received an application to withdraw groundwater in the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area. Part V of the Groundwater Withdrawal Regulations requires that the Department of Environmental Quality send a notice of every draft permit to the board of each local governing body located within the groundwater management area where the proposed withdrawal will occur on or before the date of public notice.

In accordance with section 9VAC25-610-250 B, please find the attached notice that will be advertised in the Rappahannock Record on July 31, 2025. The notice will be available on the DEQ website by the start of the Public Notice period. Additional information on the permit application may be obtained by contacting me.

The Department will accept comments concerning the proposed issuance of this draft permit for thirty days. All comments must be received by September 2, 2025.

Sincerely,

James E Peed

James Peed, Water Withdrawal Permit Writer
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Water Withdrawal Permitting
1111 East Main Street, Suite 1400
Richmond, Virginia 23219