

'DROUGHT WATCH' ADVISORIES LIFTED
FOR MIDDLE JAMES RIVER, NEW RIVER, ROANOKE RIVER REGIONS
Drought watch continues for Upper James River region

RICHMOND, VA. – Increases in precipitation in the past several weeks have raised stream flows, ground water levels and reservoir stages across most of the Commonwealth. As a result, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has lifted the “drought watch” advisories previously issued for the Middle James River basin, the New River basin and the Roanoke River basin.

A drought watch advisory remains in effect for the Upper James River basin, which has received less precipitation and limited ground water recharge than other areas of Virginia.

The affected localities and water suppliers for the Upper James River basin include the counties of Alleghany, Bath, Botetourt, Craig and Rockbridge; the cities of Buena Vista, Covington and Lexington; and the towns of Clifton Forge, Fincastle, Iron Gate, New Castle and Troutville.

The main factors contributing to the removal of the drought watch advisories in the Middle James, New and Roanoke basins include:

- Precipitation amounts since October 1, 2012 (the beginning of the current water year), now total more than 85 percent of the normal amounts expected for this time period.
- Stream flows and ground water levels have increased to levels greater than 25 percent of historic recorded flows.
- Levels at several water supply and hydroelectric reservoirs have returned to full pool elevations.

Statewide information on the current drought status is available on the DEQ website at www.deq.virginia.gov.

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