



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

www.deq.virginia.gov

Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

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

October 1, 2015

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2015 State Water Resources Plan ("Plan"), the culmination of a significant effort that began after the extended drought of 1998-2002. The Plan was developed based on information provided by Virginia's counties, cities, and towns in response to the Water Supply Planning Regulation (9 VAC 25-280). Forty-eight local and regional water supply plans covering every locality in the Commonwealth were developed with the significant efforts of planning districts, localities, water utilities, industries, agriculture, state agencies and interested citizens. The water supply plans include information about their existing water use and sources of supply, future projections of population and water demand, anticipated water supply deficits, potential sources of future water supply, and current efforts to use water efficiently.

In addition to information from the water supply plans, the Plan includes an analysis of how meeting future water needs may affect key water uses such as pollution assimilation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other existing downstream users. The main components of the Plan include an extensive look at surface water and groundwater sources, and an assessment of the capacity of these sources to meet the projected water demand in 2040. The Plan also outlines challenges faced by the Commonwealth in managing its water resources and identifies recommendations to address these challenges.

The Plan was advertised for public comment in the spring and 31 comments were received. DEQ appreciates the time and effort it took to provide comments, and while no changes were made to the Plan itself, the comments received and agency responses are included as Appendix E to the Plan to ensure consideration during near-term planning efforts and in developing future versions and updates of the Plan. The Plan is available on the [DEQ State Water Resources Plan website](#).

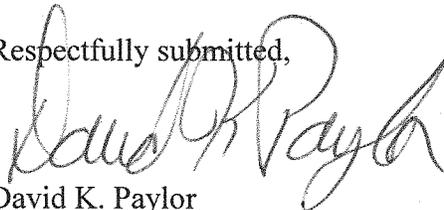
DEQ is actively communicating the Plan's findings across the Commonwealth, and efforts are underway to meet with local and regional planning partners to discuss in more detail the potential risks associated with meeting projected water needs on local and regional beneficial uses. These meetings will be prioritized based upon areas where 2040 projected water needs are clustered, multiple potential risks are anticipated, and a deficit in water supply is predicted by 2040. Planning partners that believe they might benefit from a more detailed discussion of their Cumulative Impact Analysis or in the evaluation of water supply alternatives are encouraged to contact DEQ to express their interest in being included in the prioritization.

The Plan will be subject to incremental revision at five-year intervals as DEQ, localities, and other stakeholders provide input through ongoing water supply planning efforts. One aspect of Plan implementation currently under development is a web-based, interactive platform that will enable localities to enter water supply planning information directly into the system and to receive real-time, dynamic responses to inquiries regarding the sustainability of water resources. It is anticipated that this interface will provide the basis for more efficient data collection, which in turn, will improve DEQ's ability to provide localities and regions with analysis on water resource conflicts that could impact development of their future water supplies. This should add value to local decision making before significant resources are invested in particular water supply projects. DEQ anticipates the release of this interface as a pilot test in early 2016, with public release in October 2016.

DEQ would like to thank everyone who participated in the development of the local and regional water supply plans, members of the Water Supply Plan Advisory Committee, and other state agency staff from the Department of Health, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Marine Resources Commission, Department of Historic Resources, and Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

This is a continuing planning process and I look forward to ongoing collaboration and communication with our local, regional and agency planning partners to ensure adequate water supplies and responsible, sustainable resource management for our citizens now and in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David K. Paylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "P".

David K. Paylor
Director