



# Groundwater Withdrawal Permitting Program Overview

**Purpose:** The Virginia General Assembly determined that the continued and unrestricted usage of groundwater is contributing and will contribute to pollution and shortage of groundwater. The **Ground Water Management Act of 1992** (Va. Code, Title 62.1, Chapter 25) was adopted in order to conserve, protect and beneficially utilize the groundwater of the Commonwealth and to ensure the public’s welfare, safety and health.

The **Groundwater Withdrawal Regulations** (9VAC25-610) requires withdrawals of 300,000 gallons or more in any month in a designated groundwater management area to be permitted. The permitting process allows DEQ to closely monitor water usage and better track and respond to potential over pumping, which can lead to impacts to groundwater quality, land subsidence, and loss of storage. Improving our understanding of Virginia’s groundwater resources is essential to improving groundwater quality and ensuring availability into the future.

Two **Groundwater Management Areas** are currently designated:

- The Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area includes all areas east of Interstate 95.
- The Eastern Shore Groundwater Management Area includes Accomack and Northampton counties.

The following table lists the counties and cities included in the designated groundwater management areas.

<b>Groundwater Management Areas (GWMAs) in Virginia</b>			
<b><u>Eastern Shore Groundwater Management Area</u></b> includes Accomack and Northampton counties.			
<b><u>Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area</u></b> includes the following counties and cities:			
Caroline*	Charles City	Chesterfield*	Essex
Fairfax*	Gloucester	Hanover*	Henrico*
Isle of Wight	James City	King George	King William
King and Queen	Lancaster	Mathews	Middlesex
New Kent	Northumberland	Prince George	Prince William*
Richmond	Southampton	Spotsylvania*	Stafford*
Surry	Sussex	Westmoreland	York
City of Chesapeake	City of Franklin	City of Hampton	City of Hopewell
City of Newport News	City of Norfolk	City of Poquoson	City of Portsmouth
City of Suffolk	City of Virginia Beach		
* Only those portions east of I-95 are included in the GWMA.			

## Who will need to obtain a Groundwater Withdrawal Permit?

All persons who withdraw 300,000 gallons or more in any month (total from all wells on the property) in a designated groundwater management area must obtain a groundwater withdrawal permit.

## How long is a permit valid?

Groundwater Withdrawal Permits are issued for a maximum permit term of fifteen (15) years.

## How much is the permit fee for a Groundwater Withdrawal Permit?

Type of Withdrawal	Issuance/Reissuance	Modification
Agricultural withdrawals	No Fee	No Fee
All other withdrawals	\$9,000	\$3,000

### Groundwater Permitting and Compliance Contact:

**Joseph Grist**, Program Manager  
(804) 698-4031  
[Joseph.Grist@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Joseph.Grist@deq.virginia.gov)

For more information and program forms, please visit the DEQ webpage at the following location:  
<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterSupplyWaterQuantity/WaterWithdrawalPermittingandCompliance/DocumentsFormsandAdditionalResources.aspx>