

## Groundwater Withdrawal Permitting

### Purpose of the Program

The Groundwater Management Act of 1992 (Act, Code of Virginia, Title 62.1, Chapter 25) established a permitting program whereby groundwater withdrawals are regulated in certain areas called Groundwater Management Areas (GWMA). Currently, there are two GWMA within the Coastal Plain province of Virginia: the Eastern Shore GWMA, which includes Accomack and Northampton Counties, and the Eastern Virginia GWMA, which is comprised of all areas east of I95 (Fig. 1).

The Groundwater Withdrawal Permit Program is charged with the issuance of permits and monitoring of groundwater usage as well as ensuring compliance with the Groundwater Withdrawal Regulations (9VAC25-610-10 et seq.). Permitting groundwater withdrawals for only the amount needed to support the beneficial use works to preserve the resource. The permit requirements further allow DEQ to closely monitor water usage and better track and respond to threats to over pumping and groundwater quality that may result in increased salt water intrusion, 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.

### Program Contacts for the Eastern Shore GWMA

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### What is groundwater?

Groundwater is defined as any water beneath the land surface in the zone of saturation or beneath the bed of any body of surface water wholly or partially within the boundaries of this Commonwealth.

### How do I know if I need a permit?

Any person or entity located within a GWMA who withdraws an excess of 300,000 gallons in a single month (individual or combined wells) is required to obtain a groundwater withdrawal permit. Examples include subdivisions and mobile home parks, business parks, agricultural users, and recreational businesses such as golf courses. For a complete list of exemptions, see 9VAC25-610-50.

### Permitting Process

- Pre application meeting
- Submit application
- Staff review of application
- Conduct technical evaluation
- Draft application meeting
- Public notice
- Issue permit
- Collection of withdrawal data
- Quarterly reporting

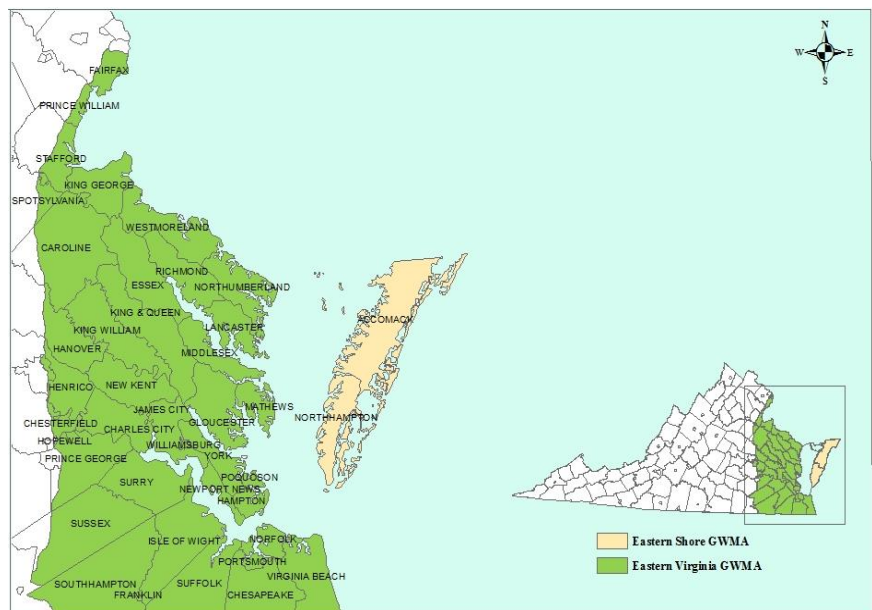


Fig. 1. Groundwater management areas of Virginia.

**More information located at our webpage:**

[Virginia DEQ Groundwater Permitting](#)