

From: "Virginia Department of Environmental Quality"
<communications@deq.virginia.gov>
Sent: Wed, 30 Aug 2023 15:05:12 -0400 (EDT)
To: "" <sfriend@warrentonva.gov>
Subject: DROUGHT WATCH ADVISORY DECLARATION

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



[DEQ.Virginia.gov](https://www.deq.virginia.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 30, 2023

CONTACT: Aaron Proctor
(804) 356-4309
Aaron.Proctor@deq.virginia.gov
v

DROUGHT WATCH ADVISORY DECLARATION

Richmond, Va. -- In response to existing conditions and to increase public awareness of the potential for a significant drought, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has issued a drought watch advisory for two of the Drought Evaluation Regions within the Commonwealth. This advisory expands the existing drought watch advisory which includes the Eastern Shore Drought Evaluation Region.

Affected Drought Evaluation Regions and localities include:

- Eastern Shore: Accomack and Northampton counties. (Existing Drought Watch Continued)
- Northern Virginia: Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Arlington, and Fairfax counties.
- York James: Charles City, James City, New Kent, and York counties, and the cities of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, and Williamsburg.

A drought watch advisory is intended to increase awareness of conditions and facilitate preparation for a drought when indicators in the Drought Assessment and Response Plan have

been met. The interagency Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force considered the following in establishing a drought watch advisory:

- Much of the Commonwealth is below normal historic rainfall amounts for the past 14-day period, with lowest amounts noted within the Shenandoah Valley. Precipitation maps for the past 60 to 120-day period have shown continued dryness on the Eastern Shore, and in central and northern Virginia.
- Stream flows in the affected areas are below the 25th percentile of historical normal values. Limited precipitation is forecasted for the near future in these regions, and dry conditions are expected to continue.
- Groundwater levels for monitoring wells have shown continued declines in some regions. Levels are currently below the 5th percentile for some sites in the York-James and Northern Virginia drought evaluation regions. Additional wells below the 25th percentile persist in the Eastern Shore
- Soil moisture is below historic values

With this advisory, DEQ is sending notifications to all local governments, public water works and private sector water users in the affected areas, and is requesting that they prepare for the onset of a drought event by developing or reviewing existing water conservation and drought response plans. Through the drought watch advisory, Virginia is encouraging localities, public and private water suppliers and self-supplied water users in the affected localities to voluntarily take these steps to help protect current water supplies:

- Minimize nonessential water use.
- Review existing or develop new local water conservation and drought contingency plans, and take actions consistent with those plans.
- Include water conservation information on local websites and distribute water conservation information as broadly as possible.
- Continue monitoring the condition of public waterworks and self-supplied water systems in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health.
- Impose water use restrictions when consistent with local water supply conditions.
- Aggressively pursue leak detection and repair programs.

The next stage after a drought watch would be a “drought warning,” which would be issued if conditions warrant. Drought warning responses are required when the onset of a significant drought event is imminent. Water conservation and contingency plans that are already in place or have been prepared during a drought watch stage would begin to be implemented. In accordance with the Commonwealth’s Drought Assessment and Response Plan, water conservation activities at this Drought Watch stage would generally be voluntary. This does not preclude localities issuing mandatory restrictions if appropriate

See the current drought status on the [DEQ website](#).

###

About DEQ

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality protects and enhances Virginia's environment and promotes the health and well being of the citizens of the commonwealth. We are committed to cleaner water, improved air quality and the productive re-use of contaminated land.

For more information, please visit www.DEQ.Virginia.gov.



Virginia Department of Environmental Quality | 1111 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219

Unsubscribe_sfriend@warrentonva.gov

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by communications@deq.virginia.gov

powered by



Try email marketing for free today!