

Water Withdrawal Reporting & Permitting for Irrigators

Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center Workshop

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Office of Water Supply

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Presentation Outline

- DEQ - Office of Water Supply
- Annual Water Withdrawal Reporting
- Groundwater Withdrawal Permitting
- Surface Water Withdrawal Permitting
- Question & Answers



Office of Water Supply

- Created in response to the 2001-2002 drought
- Water Supply Planning
 - Annual Water Withdrawal Reporting (statewide)
- Water Withdrawal Permitting & Compliance
 - Groundwater Withdrawal Permitting (within designated Groundwater Management Areas)
 - Surface Water Withdrawal Permitting (statewide)
- Groundwater Characterization
- Environmental Data & Analysis Group



Annual Water Withdrawal Reporting

Reporting is required statewide for Agriculture when:

- Crop irrigation withdrawals \geq one million gallons in a single month
- Average daily withdrawals \geq 10,000 gallons per day during any single month (about 300,000 gallons per month) for all other agricultural uses
Examples: approximately 335 milking cows, 650 feeder calves, 150,000 broilers

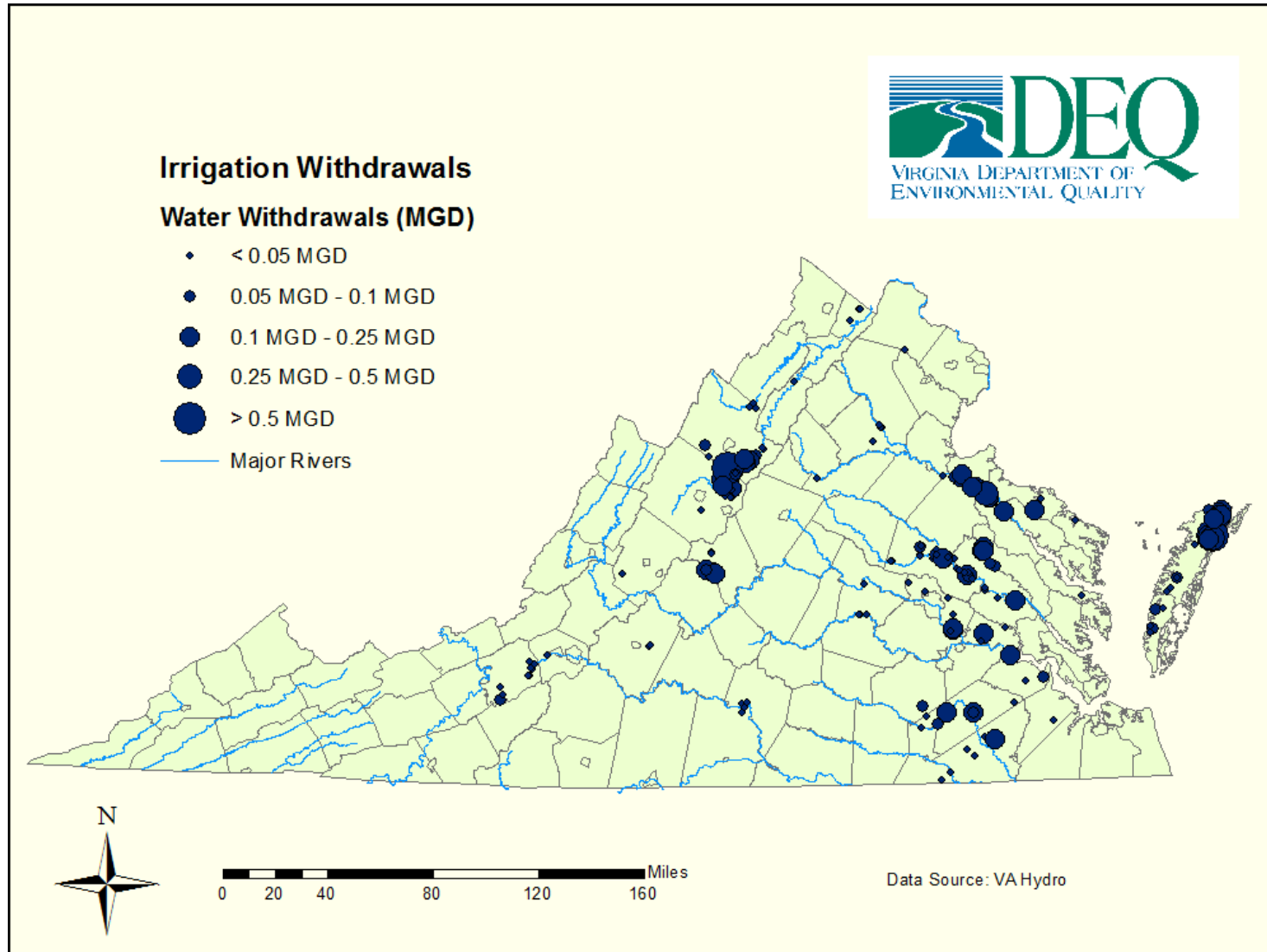


Annual Water Withdrawal Reporting

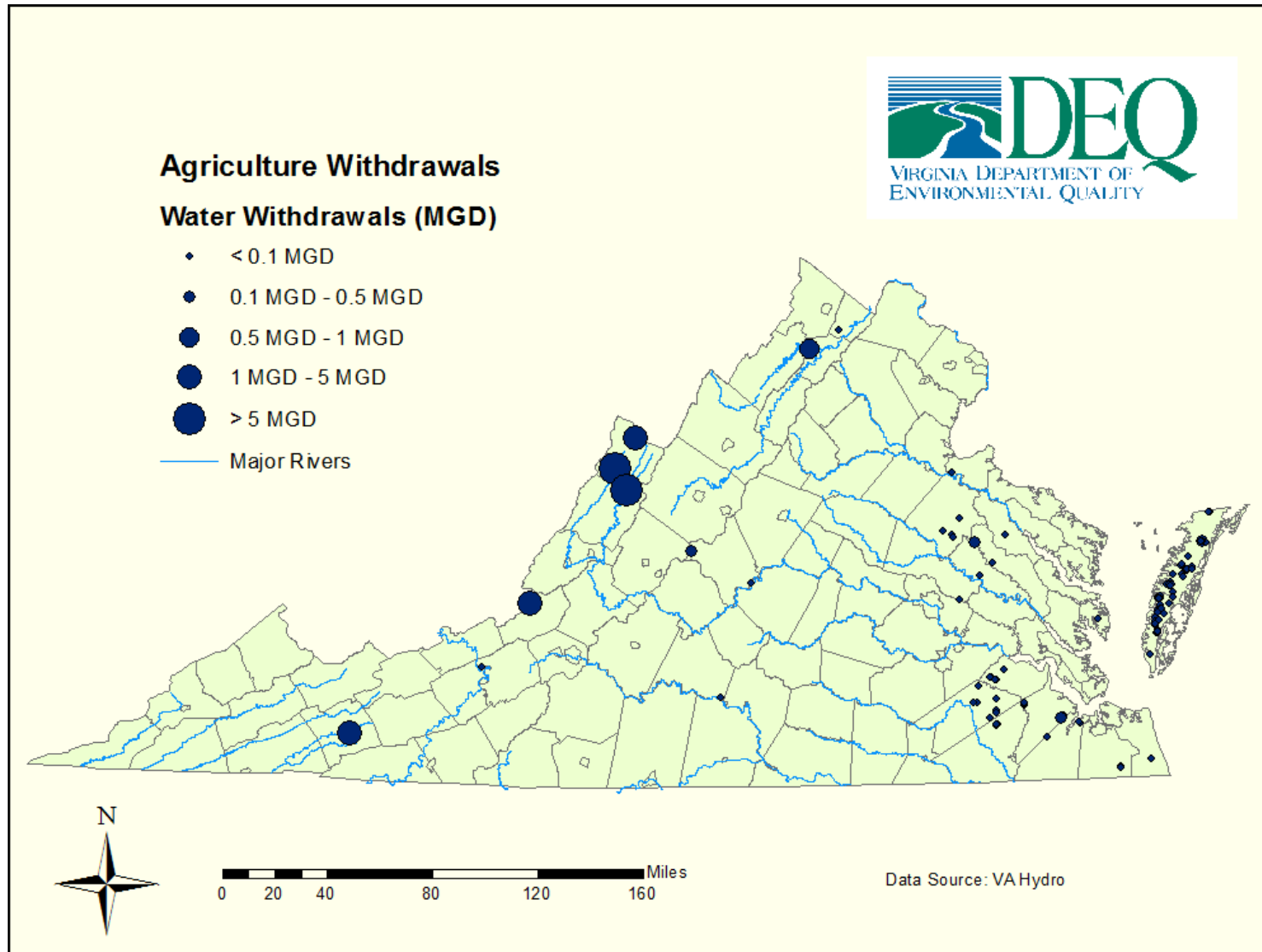
- Measure withdrawals with a meter or by estimation method
- Maintain records for 3 years
- Report amounts for each month, due on January 31st for the previous year
- Online reporting through the VA Hydro database is available to all producers



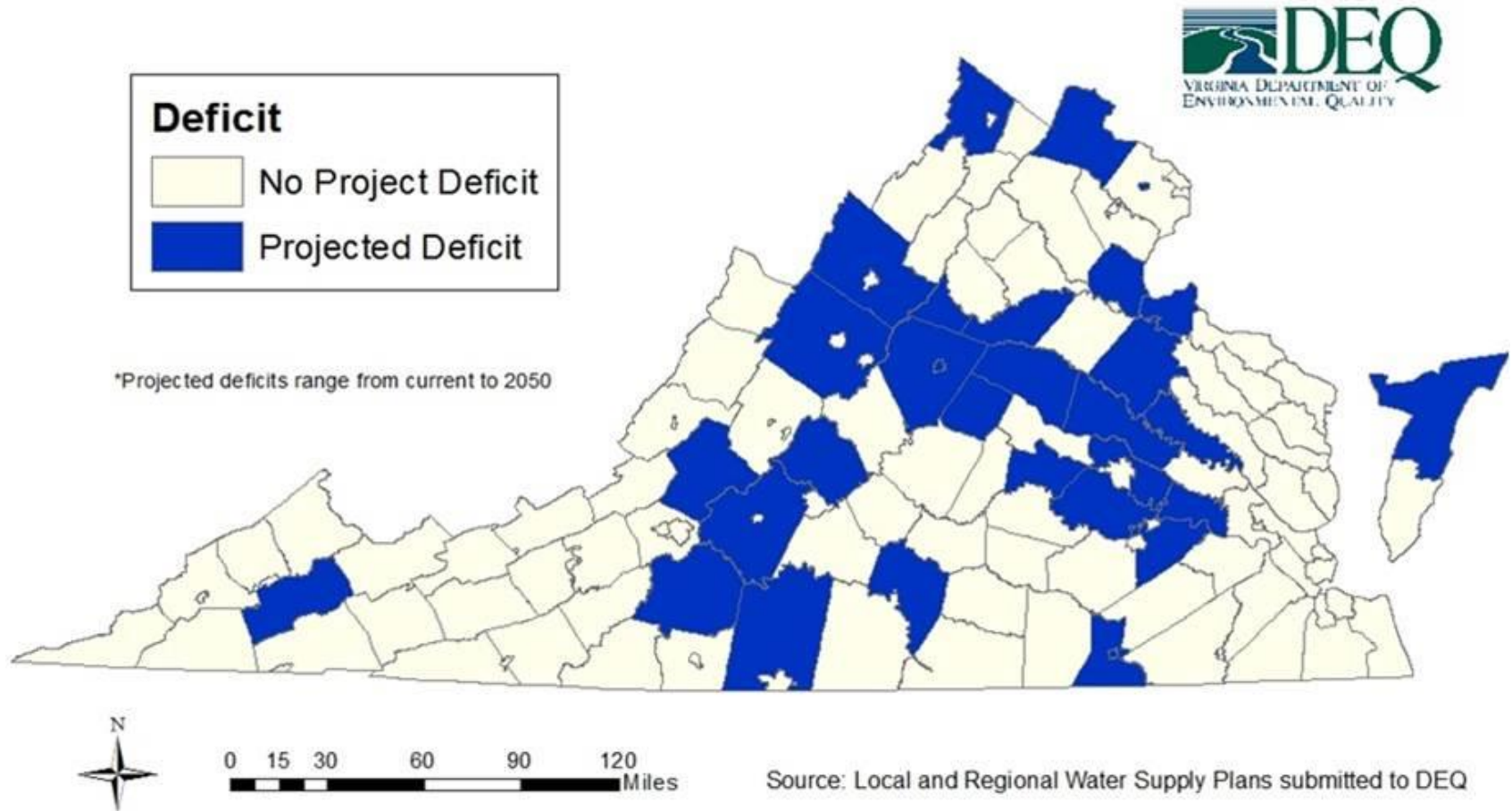
2016 Reported Irrigation Withdrawals



2016 Reported Agriculture Withdrawals (Non-Irrigation)



Future Water Needs



Water Withdrawal Permitting for Agriculture

Surface Water

- Applies statewide
- Any agricultural activity
- 15 year permit
- No permit fee

Groundwater

- Applies to designated Groundwater Management Areas Only
- Any agricultural activity
- 10 year permit
- No permit fee



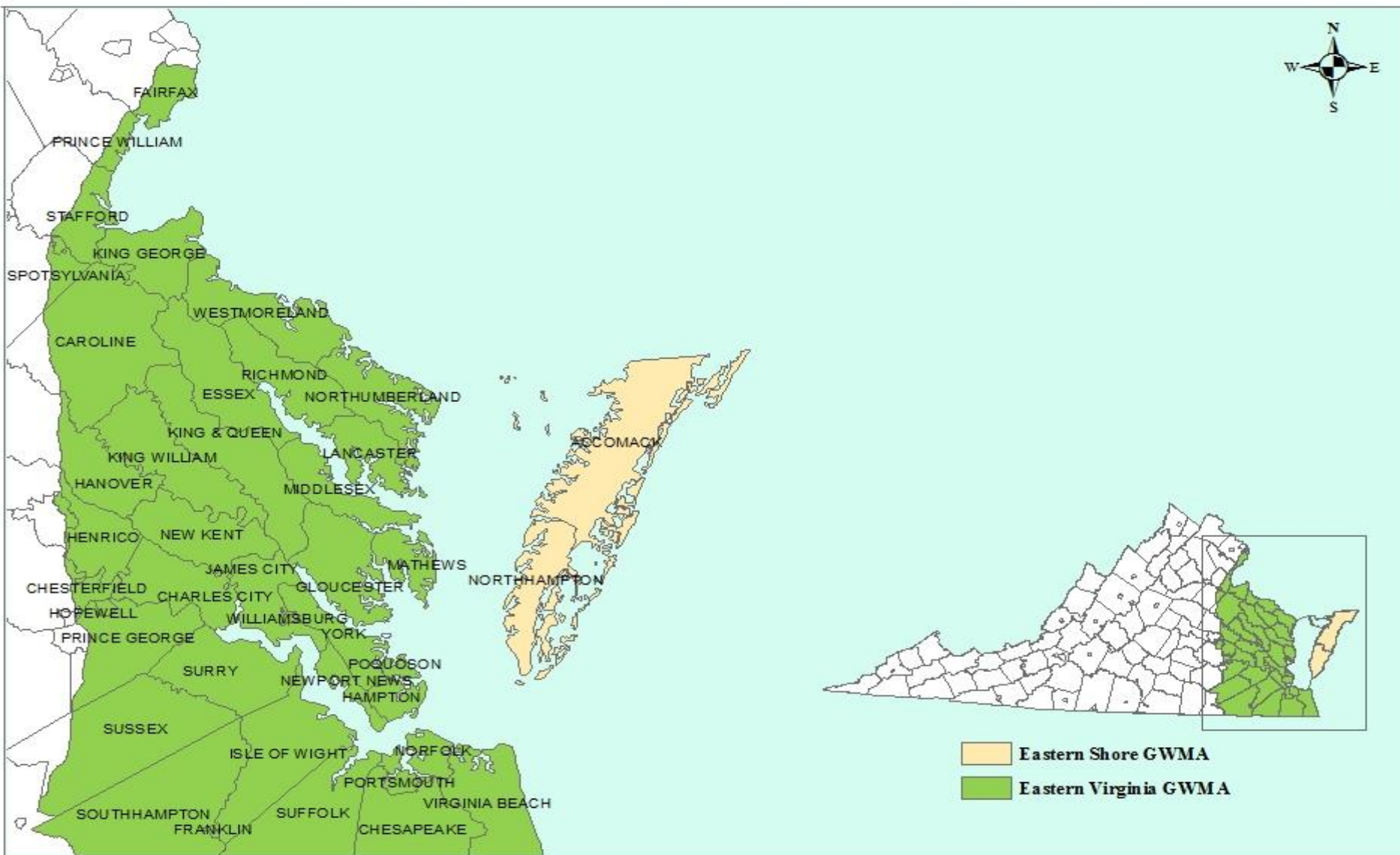
Groundwater Permitting Background

- 1973 – The Groundwater Act of 1973
- 1975/1976 – Designated GWMAAs
 - Declining groundwater levels
 - Groundwater withdrawal interference
 - Salt water intrusion
- 1992 – Ground Water Management Act of 1992
 - Agriculture added as a “beneficial use”
- 1993 – Groundwater Withdrawal Regulations
- 2014 – Expanded Eastern Virginia GWMA



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREAS (GWMA)



Effective: January 1, 2014
Prepared By: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Groundwater Withdrawal Permitting Program

Groundwater Permitting

- Who needs a permit?
 - Anyone using $\geq 300,000$ gallons in any one month in a designated GWMA
 - Applies to entire “withdrawal system”
 - Evaluated on a case-by-case basis
- Exclusions from permitting
 - Withdrawals $< 300,000$ gallons per month
 - Temporary construction dewatering (< 24 months)
 - Groundwater remediation (< 60 months)
 - Geophysical investigations (inc. pump tests)



Surface Water Permitting Background

- Virginia Water Resources and Wetland Protection Program
 - Article 2.2 of SWCL (§ 62.1-44.15:20 et seq.)
- Virginia Water Protection (VWP) Permit Program Regulation (9VAC25-210-10 et seq.)
 - Impacts to wetlands, streams, as well as dredging and construction in state waters
 - Surface water withdrawals, preservation of instream flows
 - Clean Water Act § 401 certification
- Implemented statewide



Surface Water Permitting

- Surface water withdrawal – “removal or diversion of surface water... thereby altering the instream flow or hydrologic regime of the surface water”
- Withdrawals can come from streams, rivers, lakes or impoundments (e.g., ponds, reservoirs) constructed in a natural watercourse or wetland



Surface Water Permitting

- Who needs a permit?
 - Agricultural withdrawals $\geq 1,000,000$ gallons in any one month in nontidal waters
 - Agricultural withdrawals $\geq 60,000,000$ gallons in any one month in tidal waters
 - Applies to entire “withdrawal system”
 - Evaluated on a case-by-case basis
- Non-agricultural withdrawals $\geq 10,000$ gallons per day from nontidal waters require permitting
- Non-agricultural withdrawals $\geq 2,000,000$ gallons per day from tidal waters require permitting



Surface Water Permitting

- What is not a surface water withdrawal?
 - Withdrawal from a pond not constructed in a perennial or intermittent watercourse or wetland
 - May require a groundwater permit if pond is recharged (i.e., refilled) by groundwater well



Questions & Answers

Fact-sheets, contact maps, and other helpful documents are available in the back.

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