



RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 19-27

PATRON: Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Executive Director

DATE: May 23, 2019

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS TOTAL NITROGEN DISCHARGE FOR THE UPPER OCCOQUAN SERVICE AUTHORITY IN THE VIRGINIA CHESAPEAKE BAY PHASE III WIP

WHEREAS, the Draft Virginia Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) details the best management practices (BMPs), performance metrics along with programmatic actions necessary to achieve state basin planning targets for nitrogen and phosphorus for the Agricultural, Developed, and Wastewater sectors; and

WHEREAS, as the Upper Occoquan Service Authority (UOSA) operates a regional Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) facility which receives raw sewerage from the Counties of Fairfax and Prince William and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park; and treats the sewerage to near drinking water quality before discharging it to the Occoquan Reservoir; and

WHEREAS, the Occoquan Reservoir is also an integral part of the drinking water supply system for northern Virginia, supplying nearly 40 percent of the raw water treated by Fairfax Water for distribution to nearly one in four residents of northern Virginia who obtain their water from public utilities; and

WHEREAS, the UOSA's nitrate discharge has been documented by the Virginia Tech's Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory (OWML) in preventing the release of ammonia and phosphorus in the deep sediments of the Occoquan Reservoir; and

WHEREAS, if a more rigid Total Nitrogen limitation were imposed upon UOSA, water quality in the reservoir would likely deteriorate during the summer months due to the release of sediment bound phosphorus fueling algal growth and potentially resulting in taste and odor issues in the raw water for Fairfax Water; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has recognized this unique circumstance of reservoir chemistry in the prior Virginia Phase I and Phase II WIPs, and as such, UOSA was granted exemption from advanced nitrogen removal requirements; and

WHEREAS, DEQ has recently published the Draft Virginia Phase III WIP and has stated that "A few facilities with special circumstances could maintain their existing alternative effluent limits/targets (e.g. UOSA: 8 mg/l TN)"; and

WHEREAS, the word "could" as currently written in the Draft Virginia Phase III WIP implies that Virginia DEQ may potentially revoke the special conditions discharge currently held by UOSA.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission supports continuing the special conditions discharge for UOSA in the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Phase III WIP and directs the Executive Director to communicate this resolution to the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources.



CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on May 23, 2019.


ROBERT W. LAZARO, JR., CERTIFYING OFFICER