



Northern Virginia Regional Commission

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RE: Transmittal of 2018 **Interim Update –Northern Virginia Water Supply Plan**

Interim Update – 2018 Northern Virginia Water Supply Plan
While the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) did not gather any statistical data from any of the regions water supply purveyors for this interim update, a status of water demand for the majority of northern Virginia can be seen in the 2015 Washington Metropolitan Area Water Supply Study by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac (ICPRB). Water use in the 2015 Washington Metropolitan Area (WMA) has held steady during the past two decades, averaging 466 million gallons per day (MGD) in recent years (2009-2013). Though the WMA population rose 18 percent from 1990-2015, from 3.9 to 4.6 million people, its water demands have essentially remained constant over that period due to falling per household and per employee use. This decline in unit use is consistent with trends seen throughout the United States. Both the 2035 and 2040 forecasts are 19 percent lower than the forecasts in ICPRB's 2010 study. This significant drop is primarily due to the new estimates for future per household and per employee use reductions.

There have been a number of changes to the supplier service areas since the 2011 Northern Virginia Water Supply Report. In November 2012, Loudoun Water, a wholesale customer of Fairfax Water, obtained a permit from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to build and operate a 40 MGD water

supply intake on the Potomac River and a new water treatment plant. Under the permit, when this system is completed it will provide up to 20 MGD of Loudoun Water's demand. Loudoun Water will also continue to purchase water to meet its needs from Fairfax Water. In January 2014, the City of Fairfax and the City of Falls Church were incorporated into Fairfax Water's retail service area. The City of Fairfax formerly owned and operated its own municipal water supply system. The City of Falls Church was formerly a wholesale customer of Aqueduct. To supply water to the City of Falls Church, Fairfax Water now receives wholesale water from Aqueduct. While these are changes are shifts in ownership and delivery, they do not reflect changes to the overall demand in northern Virginia.

A fully documented picture of water supply demand and future projections will be detailed in the upcoming 2023 update to the Plan.

DEQ Interim Data Requests.

To the best of Commission's knowledge all the local governments with outstanding items, with the exception of Arlington County, have either contacted DEQ or have provided the data in VA-Hydro. The Commission on behalf of Arlington County, has provided DEQ with a recommended course of action.

Agricultural Self-Supplied Withdrawals: Based upon conversations with staff members from the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, the Prince William County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District and the Loudoun County Land Development Services the Commission is unaware of any new large-scale agricultural irrigation operations requiring more than 300,000 gallons per month of water. It should be noted that these are only anecdotal observations as that these agencies are not responsible for maintaining any kind of inventory of water supply withdrawals.

Festival Lake Farm – The Commission can not find any recent references to Festival Lake Farm in Loudoun County.

Ticonderoga Farms - Ticonderoga Farms is no longer a fully operating agricultural business. The family farm has shifted its business model to farm attractions and facility rental. An excerpt from the farms website is as follows:

Come experience the changing seasons outdoors with us!

We host birthday parties, school field trips, family reunions, corporate picnics, and all other group events. During every season, we hold specialty festivals such as; Easter Egg Hunt Spectacular, Public Service Recognition, Mother's Day Celebration, Father's Day Celebration, Summer Barnyard Bash, and our Fig Fest! We have a variety of activities offered daily; hayrides, hillside slides, Native America tepee village, "Panda Puzzle" bamboo maze, farm petting zoo, large jumping pillow, and more!

Wheatland Vegetable Farm – based on website surveys it appears that Wheatland Farms is operating under a Farmers Market concept and may be renting land out to individuals to develop sub-acre farm plots.

Savage Reservoir - This reservoir is located on the Savage River in the headwaters of the Potomac River basin near Jennings Randolph Reservoir. The reservoir is owned by the Upper Potomac River Commission (UPRC). The UPRC operates the dam with guidance from US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Baltimore District Office. The USACE determines release rates from Savage Reservoir in tandem with those from Jennings Randolph Reservoir. During CO-OP drought operations, the combined Jennings Randolph and Savage releases are used to meet a flow target, determined by CO-OP, at the USGS stream flow gage (Station ID 01598500) at Luke, Maryland. The storage capacity of Savage Reservoir is approximately 6.1 BG. The drainage area of Savage Reservoir is about 105 square miles. Savage Reservoir is also the water supply source for the Town of Westernport, Maryland.

Should DEQ have any further questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
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