

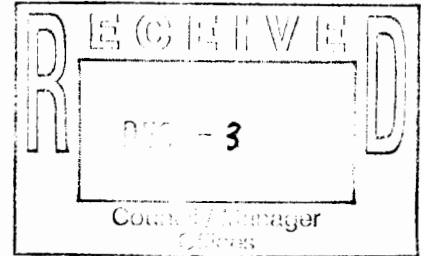


COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

November 29, 2007



The Honorable Joan Fitzgerald Foster
Mayor
City of Lynchburg
900 Church Street
Lynchburg, Virginia 24504

Dear Mayor Foster:

The entire Commonwealth is currently experiencing impacts due to the drought that began in mid-summer. Drought impacts have significantly intensified in the last two months, despite the fact that we have received some rain. More troubling, the weather outlook through February of 2008 calls for above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall.

Based on current conditions and the assumption that the weather predictions materialize, Virginia is poised to experience significant drought impacts with the onset of the growing season in the spring of 2008. One only needs to look to the south, to the center of the current drought that covers the southeastern United States, to see conditions that could exist in Virginia next year. The City of Atlanta is looking at the very real potential of running out of water as their main water supply, Lake Lanier, continues to drop.

The Commonwealth is fortunate that we have reached the time of year when water demands will diminish greatly. With the end of the active growing season the water needs of actively growing plants are virtually eliminated and human demands for most non-essential outdoor water uses will cease. While water supply conditions are not likely to deteriorate significantly until the onset of the growing season next spring, drought impacts could quickly become acute at that time.

I firmly believe that the most effective water use restrictions are those developed at the local level and take into account the nature of the local water supply as well as the users of that supply. Based on my belief in the value of local decisions, I ask that you take several water supply related actions at this time:

- Review the drought water conservation and contingency plans associated with public waterworks in your locality and be prepared to implement those plans. If public water works in your locality do not have current drought plans, I strongly encourage you to assure that they are developed as soon as possible.
- Review your local ordinances requiring mandatory non-essential water use restrictions during declared emergencies and assure that your ordinances are consistent with the Virginia Drought Assessment and Response Plan (available at DEQ's website: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/waterresources/pdf/droughtresponseplan.pdf>). If you have not adopted such local ordinances, please consider the development and adoption of these

immediately. While some waterworks in the Commonwealth have initiated voluntary or mandatory water use restrictions at this time, it is not unlikely that drought warning or drought emergency declarations may be required in the spring of 2008 that will require conservation by all water users, regardless of their source of supply. Local ordinances consistent with the Drought Assessment and Response Plan will be necessary to effectively implement water conservation at these drought stages.

- Encourage all your citizens, whether served by public waterworks, private self-supplied surface water sources, or private wells, to voluntarily restrict all non-essential water uses and practice water conservation practices in their homes and businesses at this time. (link to water conservation tips: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/waterresources/waterconservation.html>) Simple water conservation actions such as limiting shower times, turning off water when brushing teeth, and only operating clothes washers and dish washers with full loads will result in significant water savings when practiced by all citizens.

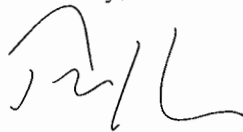
If the long range weather predictions materialize it is likely that mandatory water use restrictions will be required in at least some areas of the Commonwealth in the spring of 2008.

Please take advantage of the window of time between now and the onset of the growing season to review or develop drought water conservation and contingency plans. These plans and local ordinances restricting non-essential water uses will help to assure the health, welfare, and safety of your citizens' during water shortage emergencies.

I encourage you to stay informed about the status of the drought. Ten state and federal agencies participate on the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force and will continue to track drought development in the Commonwealth. This task force publishes a monthly report of drought conditions, available on the Department of Environmental Quality website, (web link to DMTF reports: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/waterresources/drought.php#DroughtStatusReports>).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important effort as the Commonwealth prepares for the potential to face significant water supply shortages.

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Kaine