

## **AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **ITEM #9J: GROUNDWATER REGULATIONS COMMENTS**

#### **SUBJECT:**

The Virginia Department of Water Quality (DEQ) has proposed revisions to the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area Regulations (9VAC25-600) and the Groundwater Withdrawal Regulations (9VAC25-610). The revisions would expand the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area to include the remaining portion of Virginia's coastal plain and amend the Groundwater Withdrawal regulations to manage groundwater resources more comprehensively. The public comment period ends on January 11, 2013. HRPDC staff has prepared a draft comment letter for the Commission's consideration based on input from the HRPDC Directors of Utilities Committee.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

These regulations govern groundwater withdrawals in designated Groundwater Management Areas which currently include all Hampton Roads localities except Gloucester County.

The groundwater regulations were reviewed by a Regulatory Advisory Panel in 2010. At the conclusion of the panel, the Directors of Utilities Committee submitted comments to Mr. David Paylor, Director of DEQ. The suggested revisions have not been incorporated into the proposed regulations. The Committee's major concerns are identified in Workshop Agenda Item 6.

The comment letter on the groundwater regulations that was submitted to DEQ in 2010 is included in the agenda. The Directors of Utilities Committee will meet on November 7th to consider revisions to the letter. The Committee will review the final comment letter at its December 5, 2012 meeting.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve draft comments and authorize the HRPDC Chairman to submit the final comments endorsed by the Directors of Utilities Committee.

**Note: This item was presented under Workshop Agenda Item 6.**