



CITY OF RICHMOND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES



**City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities
Communications Division**

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L. Douglas Wilder, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Area Utilities Lift Mandatory Water Measures

RICHMOND, VA—As a result of recent rains - including Tropical Storm Hanna, which brought significant increases to water levels in the James River - the City of Richmond along with the counties of Chesterfield and Hanover are lifting mandatory water conservation measures, effective today. Additionally, voluntary water conservation measures will not be re-imposed at this time, but it is important that all citizens continue to use water wisely and be mindful of the importance of conserving this critical natural resource.

"We really appreciate the patience and cooperation of our citizens in the city and in neighboring counties during the mandatory conservation period," said City Chief Administrative Officer and Public Utilities Director Chris Beschler.

The City of Richmond along with Hanover County implemented mandatory conservation measures on Aug. 21, 2008 when water levels in the James River were dangerously near Richmond's 750 cfs (cubic feet per second) mandatory trigger level. Chesterfield County implemented mandatory water restrictions on Sept. 2, 2008.

Richmond and surrounding localities continue to closely monitor river and reservoir levels in the James River watershed as we progress into the fall season. If rainfall in central Virginia does not continue on a regular basis, the metropolitan area may have to consider the need to re-impose voluntary and perhaps mandatory water conservation measures.

The following steps are recommended to make the most efficient use of water year-round:

- Do not water your street, driveway, or sidewalk. Position your sprinklers so that water lands on the lawn and shrubs and not the paved areas.
- Do not leave sprinklers or hoses unattended. Your garden hose can pour out 600 gallons or more in only a few hours. Use a kitchen timer to remind yourself to turn off the water.
- Water during off-peak demand hours, between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- Check sprinklers and outside water connections for leaks.

- Do not leave the water running while performing tasks such as brushing your teeth or washing your face.
- Take shorter showers. Decreasing your shower time by 2 minutes can save several gallons of water.

Additional information can be found at www.vdh.state.va.us/DrinkingWater/conservationtips.htm.

For additional information, specific to localities, contact:

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| • County of Chesterfield | Media Contact Courtney Battista | 748-1876 |
| | Customer Inquiries | 748-1291 |
| • County of Hanover | www.co.hanover.va.us or call Customer Service | 365-6024 |
| • City of Richmond | Customer Care Center | 644-3000 |

The City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities (DPU) is a premier provider of utility service. DPU provides natural gas, water, wastewater and stormwater services to more than 500,000 residential and commercial customers in the metropolitan region. In addition, DPU operates an electric street lighting utility, which maintains 37,000 streetlights throughout the City.

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