The Water Story on the Peninsula

The Peninsula's water supply is a paradox. Looking at the bay and our rivers, and realizing we get 44 inches of rain annually, one would think that the drinking water supply here is not an issue. *But it is.* You see, most of the water that surrounds us, even in the rivers, is brackish or salty. Even groundwater is salty at deeper levels.

The Newport News Waterworks system, which serves over 410,000 people across the Peninsula, depends on a network of five reservoirs, brackish and fresh groundwater wells, and water conservation to supply our water. (Williamsburg also has a reservoir, and we sell them untreated water when needed; and James City County has a water system that we are under contract to augment when needed.)

For fresh water, Waterworks depends primarily on water flowing down the Chickahominy River in New Kent County, which is pumped to our reservoirs. And even that water can get salty during droughts.

During dry times, when river flows fall below a certain level, Waterworks is restricted by the State from pumping water from the Chickahominy. When that happens, we must depend on stored water in our reservoirs. So during periods of drought, like those we had in 2002 and 2007, our reservoirs become the "savings accounts" from which we draw our water.

To assure that our water supply remains adequate, particularly during hot, dry periods, it is important that all our customers on the Peninsula use water efficiently.

Newport News Waterworks is a partner in EPA's WaterSense program. We are also an active member of HR Green, your go-to resource for everything green in Hampton Roads! HR Green supports the Water Use It Wisely program. Finally, Waterworks "walks the talk" by being water-wise in the way we treat and distribute water. Be sure to check out the websites below so that you can be equipped to help us manage the Peninsula drinking water supply wisely! www.nnva.gov/waterworks, www.askhrgreen.org, and www.epa.gov/watersense.

Newport News Waterworks
Source Water & Service Area

Diascund Creek
Reservoir

Chickahominy
Pump Station

Lightfoot
Well System

Gloucester
County

Mathews
County

Little Creek
Reservoir

James City
County

York River

Williamsburg

Skiffe's Creek
Reservoir

Chesapeake
Bay

Brackish Groundwater Wells
and Desalting Plant

York
County

Lee Hall Reservoir
and Water Treatment Plant

Harwood's Mill Reservoir
and Water Treatment Plant

Surry
County

Newport
News

Poquoson

James River

Hampton

Isle of
Wight

5
Miles