

On September 10, 2026 the U.S. Drought Monitor

(<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?VA>) updated their map to include portions of Halifax County, Pittsylvania County and Cambell County in an extreme drought status. The Halifax County Service Authority has restricted permitted bulk haulers from using any water until the extreme drought condition returns to a less critical condition. This will only happen with considerable precipitation and with several extended rainfall events.

The Halifax County Service Authority (Authority) serves the areas of Halifax County, including the Towns of South Boston, Halifax, Virgilina and the Community of Clover and the Virginia International Raceway. We receive our source water from the Dan River in South Boston and treated drinking water is dispatched from our Leigh Street Filter Plant in South Boston. This treatment plant supplies water for the Town of South Boston and the Town of Halifax, including areas that surround each Town such as the Riverdale area. Virgilina, Clover and VIR use groundwater wells for their source water. To date, all systems are able to produce drinking water use at normal levels. However, since July, we have asked all of our customers to voluntarily reduce water use when possible. This has been a tremendous effort from all of our customers and communities.

The Authority's intake on the Dan River was modified in 2003 with improvements to increase water flows by our intake during seasons of lower-than-average precipitation. We experienced low flows in 1985 and in 2002 that were very similar in water levels and the conditions that we are currently experiencing. The modifications included a "coffer" dam that is not usually visible during normal flows and is generally submerged. The coffer dam is currently visible and is directing water flows toward our intake. To date, we have not experienced any flows that have limited our capacity or inhibited water production. In 2008, the Authority discontinued the use of the very small water plant in the Town of Halifax that is located on Banister Lake. The water plant was decommissioned due to age and operational costs. We also recognized the potential for very low (and extended) water volume due to a lack of precipitation and the gradual increase in sedimentation of the impoundment. This condition is currently visible and prevalent.

Our staff have reached out to all of our permitted bulk water customers, landscape and construction companies this morning. HCSA has prohibited the permitted and metered withdrawal of water from our water systems in Halifax County. All of our permitted users are metered and pay the same base and consumption rates as all of our customers in those areas.

This voluntary water conservation request and the connection prohibition of our bulk water customers will continue until the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and U.S. Drought Monitor decreases our drought status from emergency/severe to a less critical rating of severe to moderate drought.

I encourage all of our customers to continue to voluntarily conserve water when possible and to keep water for consumption for us and our pets and livestock as a priority. We have posted our website accordingly and please do not hesitate to call us at 434.575.4240 should you see anyone connected to one of our hydrants, unless it is a HCSA vehicle or local Fire Department Apparatus.

Thank You,

Mark Estes, Director
Halifax County Service Authority