

# International Paper Closure: Impact on Groundwater Resources

Presented to: Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

Presented by: Whitney Katchmark, P.E.  
Senior Regional Geologist

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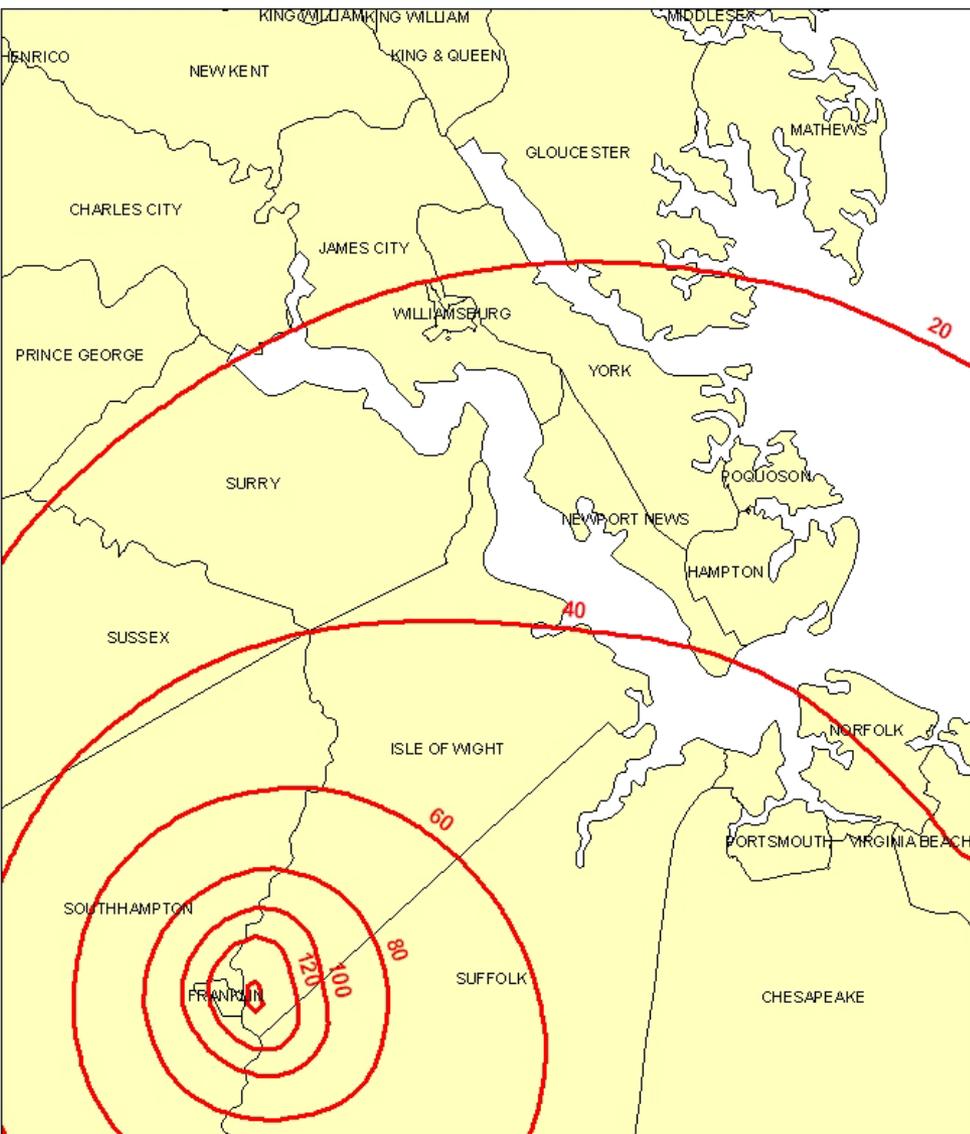


# Groundwater Withdrawal Permit

- All groundwater withdrawals over 10,000 gallons per day require a permit.
- International Paper holds the largest withdrawal permit in the region.
- Permit allows IP to withdraw up to 37 million gallons per day.
- In 2008, IP reported withdrawing 33 million gallons per day.

# Status of Permit

- International Paper's permit expires January 2010.
- IP applied to renew its permit in the spring and has not withdrawn its request for renewal.
- Permit can be transferred to a new owner with the consent of the State Water Control Board.
- Permit must be amended if new owner wants to use water for a different beneficial use.



INTERNATIONAL PAPER  
 PERMITTED WITHDRAWALS  
 DRAWDOWN (FT)  
 MIDDLE POTOMAC AQUIFER



- IP's withdrawals impact water levels throughout the region.
- USGS and DEQ installed additional equipment to monitor the change in water levels as IP stops pumping.

# Over Allocated Resource

Number of model cells violating DEQ's technical criteria		
	With International Paper's withdrawals	Without International Paper's withdrawals
Yorktown-Eastover	3	1
Chickahominy-Piney Point	15	10
Aquia	22	12
Upper Potomac	2	0
Middle Potomac	12	5

Based on DEQ's criteria, the groundwater system is currently over allocated and will still be over allocated when International Paper stops withdrawing water.

# Groundwater Availability

- International Paper's permit was never evaluated based on the technical criteria because it was grandfathered.
- A new permit for the same amount of water would not pass the technical evaluation.
- Ideally, a new owner of the IP facility would use less water than IP.
- Local governments should not expect all of the groundwater permitted to IP to be available to renew their groundwater withdrawal permits at the current amounts or more.

# Next Steps

- **International Paper closure**
  - HRPDC staff can evaluate the groundwater issues associated with economic development proposals.
- **Regulatory Changes**
  - Groundwater Regulatory Advisory Panel has been meeting since September to review the current regulations.
  - HRPDC and USGS staff are analyzing the permitted withdrawals with a new groundwater model published this year.
  - Staff will provide updates on regulatory changes that may impact the permits held by local governments.