



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Karen Shelton, MD
State Health Commissioner

OFFICE OF DRINKING WATER

Richmond Field Office

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Richmond, VA 23219
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SUBJECT: Louisa County
Waterworks: Town of Mineral
PWSID No: 2109525

February 5, 2025

Ms. Nicole Washington, Town Manager
Town of Mineral
PO Box 316
Mineral, Virginia 23117

Re: Exceeding Waterworks Permitted Design Capacity

Dear Ms. Washington:

It is Richmond Field Office's (RFO's) understanding that Well No. 4 has been offline for an extended period of time. The Operation Permit issued to the Town on June 17, 2020, lists Well No. 4 and a consecutive connection to Louisa County Water Authority (PWSID 2109510) as sources for the waterworks. The total source capacity on the operation permit is 201,600 gpd. Without Well No. 4 the source capacity drops to 93,600 gpd.

However, this capacity for the Louisa County Water Authority is based on the size of the pump that transfers water from the wholesale system to the Town and does not take into account any purchase agreements between the wholesale and purchasing systems. It appears that the purchase agreement does not have a firm capacity provided for the Town by the wholesaler. The intent of the connection was not to be the primary source of water for the Town, but a supplementary source of water with Well No. 4 being the primary source of water.

With no firm capacity, the actual source capacity is currently unknown. This is a concern as not having a firm capacity provided and no additional sources restricts the ability of the Town to expand and reduces reliability of the system. For example, Louisa County Water Authority will be at reduced treatment capacity at the plant in the near future due to a construction project in their sedimentation basins. If there were to be an issue at the plant, there would be some possibility that the Town would not be able to provide water at adequate quantity and pressure to its customers.

The Town must plan to address this potential issue with source capacity, or it may be in violation of the Public Water Supplies Law, Title 32.1, Chapter 6, Article 2 of the Code of Virginia, and Section 12VAC5-590-190 E of the Virginia *Waterworks Regulations* ("Regulations") for exceeding the waterworks permitted design capacity as established in the Operation Permit.

Section 12VAC5-590-190 E states, "Conditions may be imposed on the issuance of any permit, and no waterworks may be constructed, modified, or operated in violation of these conditions."

The Office of Drinking Water, Richmond Field Office requests that the Town review the attached Corrective Action Plan and associated deadlines to establish a timeline to evaluate and resolve the source water capacity concerns for the waterworks. Please review the document and should you find the action items acceptable, sign the document and return it to this office **no later than March 7, 2025**.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Azhar Mirza, District Engineer, at 804-664-4404 or email at Azhar.mirza@vdh.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,



James Reynolds, PE
Field Director
Richmond Field Office

JR

Enclosures:

1. Draft Corrective Action Plan
2. Draft Quarterly Progress Report Template

cc: Ryan McKay, Health Director, Blue Ridge Health District
Christian Goodwin, County Administrator- Louisa County
John Grubbs, Louisa County Building Official
Jarrett Talley, Capacity Development Supervisor, VDH-ODW