RE: Approval of a more stringent drought response level

Dear Dr. Keller:

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 12-5-7 and GA Rule 391-3-30-.08, the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has reviewed the City of Griffin’s request for a local variance from the current State drought response level in order to impose more stringent restrictions. The State is not currently in a drought response level. The City of Griffin currently has an approved variance for a drought response level D1.

Considering all available relevant information, EPD has determined that “good cause” has been shown to support the request of more stringent restrictions. Based on the information you provided in support of your request, and in consideration of the ongoing drought conditions occurring within your area, your request is hereby approved to impose a Drought Response Level 2. This approval is valid until December 31, 2019 as requested in your variance application. However, if conditions have not improved 10 days prior to the expiration of this variance, please notify EPD and provide any new applicable information so it may be determined if a timeframe extension is warranted.

In addition to the above, this variance requires the City of Griffin to contact all water systems that purchase water from the City, including but not limited to Spalding County, Coweta County, Butts County as well as the Cities of Williamson, Zebulon, and Concord, to notify them of this variance. When providing this notification, the City will also review with each system any applicable contractual provisions and emphasize the need for each of the systems that rely upon the City for water supply to consider their own drought response options including but not limited to: understanding the extent of their available remaining supplies, other available supply options, implementation of their drought contingency plans and requesting a drought response variance of their own. EPD will also follow up with these water systems to discuss their water supply conditions and options.
If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Mr. Wei Zeng at 404-463-2883 or Wei.Zeng@dnr.ga.gov.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Dunn
Director

cc: Honorable Steve Fry, City of Williamson
    Mr. Larry Mitcham, City of Zebulon
    Honorable John Strickland, City of Concord
    Chairman Dave Lamb, Spalding County Water Authority
    Director James Rigdon, Lamar County
    Tracy Thigpen, Coweta County Water & Sewerage Authority
    Ms. Marcie Seleb, Butts County & Sewer Authority
    Springs Industries