



Richard E. Dunn, Director

Watershed Protection Branch

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1152, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-463-1511

NOV 03 2016

Mr. Brant D. Keller
City of Griffin
100 South Hill Street
Griffin, Georgia 30224

RE: Drought Response Variance Approval -- Drought Response Level Two

Dear Mr. 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 (the City's) request for a variance from the current State Drought Response Level 1 to a Drought Response Level 2 in order to implement more stringent restrictions in response to the water supply challenges the City is anticipating this winter.

A review of your variance application and supporting letter has provided that the water levels in the Still Branch Regional and Head Creek reservoirs, two of the City's water sources, have reached 70% combined storage volume or system storage capacity. Furthermore, EPD's assessment further confirms that 70% down to 50% combined storage volume represents a moderate drought condition as defined by the City's approved Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). Such DCP calls for restrictions on water uses for such a drought condition which are deemed equivalent to a Drought Response Level 2 under GA Rule 391-3-30-.07.

Therefore, based on this information and in consideration of the ongoing climatic and water supply conditions occurring within your area, EPD has determined that good cause has been shown to support your request. EPD hereby approves a variance for the City of Griffin to implement Drought Response Level 2 measures in the applicable service areas, as provided in GA Rule 391-3-30.07(3). As you requested, this approval is valid until December 31, 2016. However, if ten days prior to the expiration of this variance, the Still Branch Regional and Head Creek reservoirs have not recovered to levels above 70% combined storage volume, please notify EPD and provide any new applicable information so it may be determined if a timeframe extension is warranted.

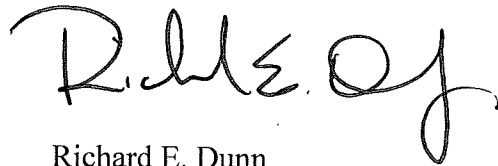
In addition to the above, this variance includes the following special conditions requiring the City of Griffin to:

1. Review its drought contingency plan pursuant to EPD Rules 391-3-6-.07(4)(b)9 and 391-3-30, revise it accordingly, and submit it for approval by the EPD Director; and

2. 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. Bennett Weinstein, EPD's Water Supply Program Manager, at 404-651-5155.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. E. Dunn", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard E. Dunn
Director

Cc: Mayor Steve Fry, City of Williamson
Mayor Bobby Blalock, City of Zebulon
Mayor John Strickland, City of Concord
William P. Wilson, Jr., Spalding County Water Authority
John N. White, Coweta County Water and Sewerage Authority
J. B. White, Butts County Water and Sewer Authority
Jac Capp
Gail Cowie
Bennett Weinstein