



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

**Richard E. Dunn, Director**

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

OCT 18 2016

Mr. Bob Downey  
Haralson County Water Authority  
P.O. Box 429  
Buchanan, Georgia 30176

**RE: Drought Response Variance Approval -- Drought Response Level Three**

Dear Mr. Downey:

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 12-5-7 and GA Rule 391-3-30-.08, the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has reviewed Haralson County Water Authority's (the Authority) request for a variance from the current State Drought Response Level 1 to a Drought Response Level 3 in order to implement more stringent restrictions in response to the water supply challenges the Authority is facing.

EPD further understands that in light of these water supply challenges, the Authority, under the emergency provisions provided in O.C.G.A. § 12-5-7(a)(2), is currently imposing drought response restrictions that are more stringent than the current State drought response level one. To clarify, these emergency provisions are not to exceed seven days unless a variance is granted by the EPD Director.

Your variance application and the site visit conducted by EPD staff on October 13, 2016, have confirmed that the water level in the Tallapoosa River, the Authority's primary water source, has been at or below your system's intake for at least the past 24 hours. Furthermore, EPD's assessment further confirms that flows in the river have dropped approximately three feet at your intake in the last three days.

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 Haralson County Water Authority to implement Drought Response Level 3 measures in the applicable service areas, as provided in EPD rule 391-3-30.07(4). As you requested, this approval is valid for 60 days from the date of this letter. However, if ten days prior to the expiration of this variance, the Tallapoosa River has not recovered to levels sufficient to provide a reliable supply, please notify EPD and provide any new applicable information so it may be determined if a timeframe extension is warranted.

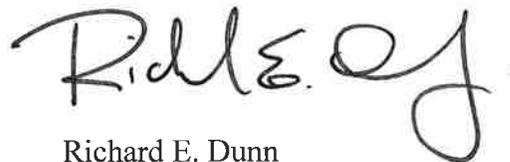
In addition to the above, this variance includes the following special conditions requiring the Haralson County Water Authority to:

1. Review and revise its drought contingency plan pursuant to EPD Rules 391-3-6-.07(4)(b)9., and 391-3-30, and submit it for approval by the EPD Director; and
2. Contact all water systems that purchase water from the Authority, including but not limited to Polk County Water Authority as well as the Cities of Bremen, Buchanan, Tallapoosa, Temple, and Waco, to notify them of this variance. When providing this notification, the Authority will also review with each system any applicable contractual provisions and emphasize the need for each of the systems that rely upon the Authority 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.

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If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Mr. Bennett Weinstein, EPD's Water Supply Program Manager, at 404-651-5155.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Dunn  
Director

Cc: Mayor Sharon Sewell, City of Bremen  
Mayor Johnny Pope, City of Buchanan  
Mayor William "Pete" Bridges, City of Tallapoosa  
Mayor Lester Harmon, City of Temple  
Mayor Travis Pritchard, City of Waco  
Jack Danrum, Polk County Water Authority  
Jac Capp  
Gail Cowie  
Bennett Weinstein