

## Notes on Raw Water Policies and Events

8/19/08

- October 6, 1993** Town and County agreed to study the interconnection of the Town and county water systems
- 1999** Water released
- May 16, 2000** Procedural points on water release approved by Town Council
- June 6, 2000** Procedure on Emergency Release of Water from Amherst County Reservoirs approved by county
- April 3, 2001** Revised procedure on emergency release of water approved by county
- May 2001** Buffalo River Watershed Management contract executed
- August 20, 2002** August 2, 2002 emergency release ratified by county
- February 10, 2003** United States Environmental Protection Agency declared the Town and county a Clean Water Partner for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century “through their efforts to improve and maintain our nation’s watersheds”
- October 2, 2007** County approves emergency sharing of treated water resources
- October 10, 2007** Town approves emergency sharing of treated water resources;
- July 15, 2008** County approves resolutions to improve the raw water release arrangement and approve the potential sale of finished water to the Town
- August 13, 2008** Town accepts county’s July 15 resolutions
- The current (July 15, 2008) water release procedure resolutions are attached.**

## **Procedure for the Emergency Release of Water from Amherst County Reservoirs**

The intent of the following is to establish a non-binding procedure and policy under which water may be released from Amherst County-owned water reservoirs for the benefit of the Town of Amherst waterworks in the event of a drought. Therefore, it is the policy of Amherst County Board of Supervisors that in the event of a drought the process for the release of water from the County's reservoirs is as follows:

1. The Town of Amherst will submit a written request to the Amherst County Administrator for the release of water into the Buffalo River from a County owned reservoir or reservoirs in an amount sufficient to meet the water demand of the Town of Amherst during the drought. The amount of water needed to meet this demand, or the difference between the daily demand and the actual flow in the river, shall be included in the request.
2. Subsequent to the Town of Amherst's request and due to the need for timely action, the County Administrator will advise the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the request and his action to release water from a County-owned reservoir or reservoirs. The County Administrator will inform the Board of Supervisors of the request and subsequent release of water at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.
3. The release of water to benefit the Town of Amherst shall not exceed 1,000,000 gallons per day as measured at the reservoir outlet(s).
4. The release of water shall continue until such time as the drought condition has abated to the extent that the Town of Amherst can withdraw water from the Buffalo River in amounts sufficient to meet its water demands.

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE NON-EMERGENCY AND A RECOMMENDED DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR THE AMHERST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS GOVERNING WATER RELEASES FROM COUNTY RESERVOIRS**

**WHEREAS**, both the governing bodies of the Amherst County Service Authority and the Town of Amherst recognize that the citizenry will benefit from establishing a procedural agreement for the non-emergency sale of Authority treated water to the Town when it is needed; and

**WHEREAS**, completion of the Ebenezer Rd. & Cabell Ln. Water Line & Pump Station Project has provided interconnection of the two public water systems, and has now made such sales possible.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Amherst County Service Authority Board agrees that when the Town of Amherst wishes to purchase treated water from the Authority, that if such water is available in the amounts requested, the Authority shall sell it wholesale to the Town for eighty-five percent (85%) of the Authority retail rate which exist at the time of the sale,

**AND**, whenever the Town desires the sale of such treated water for ninety (90) days in any twelve month period, if available, the Authority shall enter into a contract with the Town to reserve a portion of the Authority=s water system capacity via the payment of an availability fee. This reserve capacity fee shall be based on the maximum volumn the Town wishes to reserve, and the Authority=s ability to provide that volumn. The amount of the resulting availability fee shall be established at that time, based on County ordinance and Town/Authority/County negotiations,

**AND**, the Authority Board recommends the following resolution to the Amherst County Board of Supervisors.

**PROCEDURE FOR WATER RELEASE FROM COUNTY RESERVOIRS**

**WHEREAS**, there is a history of Amherst County releasing stored water from the Mill Creek Reservoir when drought conditions have made the flow of the Buffalo River inadequate to meet the water treatment needs of the Town of Amherst; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties wish to establish a new standardized procedure for these releases.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following procedures are established.

1. If the Amherst County Service Authority has established either voluntary or mandatory water conservation regulations at the time the Town of Amherst request a release, the Town of Amherst shall impose similar legally enforceable regulations to restrict or otherwise reduce daily water usage and consumption by all its water users. If the Amherst County Service Authority establishes such regulations after water releases from a reservoir have begun the Town must also promptly do so, until the Authority has suspended its regulations, or the water release ceases.
2. The Town of Amherst will submit a written request to the Amherst County Administrator for the releases of water into the Buffalo River from a County owned reservoir or reservoirs in an amount sufficient to meet the water demand of the Town of Amherst during the drought. The amount of water needed to meet this demand, or the difference between the restricted daily demand and the actual flow in the river, shall be included in the request.
3. Subsequent to the Town of Amherst=s request and due to the need for timely action, the County Administrator will contact each member of the Board of Supervisors to advise of the request and to further advise of his action to release the water from a County-owned reservoir or reservoirs. The Board of Supervisors will then review the action at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors.
4. The release of water to benefit the Town of Amherst shall be the minimum to meet the Town=s need, and shall not exceed 1,000,000 gallons per day as measured at the reservoir outlet(s). As in past instances of such reservoir releases, an employee of the Amherst County Service Authority shall assist the Town=s representative whenever outlet valves are being adjusted.
5. The release of water shall continue until such time as the drought condition has abated to the extent that the Town of Amherst can withdraw water from the Buffalo River in amounts sufficient to meet its water demands.