



News Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Tim Clemons, RSA, tclemons@rapidan.org

Rapidan Service Authority Provides Update on Do Not Use Water Advisory *No Volatile Organic Chemicals Detected in Initial Samples*

Rapidan Service Authority (RSA), the owner of the Wilderness water treatment plant (WTP) waterworks, reports that water test results show Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are not present in initial samples.

On August 21, following reports of an unknown odor in the drinking water, RSA and the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water (VDH ODW) initiated a multi-agency response. Out of an abundance of caution and in coordination with VDH ODW, RSA issued a [Do Not Use Water Advisory](#). Based on the odor of concern and preliminary investigation, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) were identified as the potential contaminants of primary concern. On August 21, a Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) contractor collected samples from the treatment plant and sent them to a VELAP certified private lab for VOC analysis in accordance with an EPA-approved method.

Laboratory results received on August 22 show there are no VOCs causing the odor of concern. Additional VOC sampling was performed on August 22 and results are expected on August 23. Due to the absence of VOCs in preliminary testing, a wider range of testing will be performed on samples collected on August 23.

RSA staff is currently flushing water out of the distribution system in order to reduce the odor of concern. Testing results should be received within the next 24 to 48 hours. Until that time, the Do Not Use Advisory will remain in effect. Additionally, the multi-agency investigation into the origin of the odor will continue.

RSA, in conjunction with Orange County Fire and EMS, is coordinating [bottled water distribution](#) at Locust Grove Middle School, located at 6368 Flat Run Road in Locust Grove, Friday, August 23 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. For additional water distribution information, please register for alerts [on RSA's website \(www.rapidan.org/subscribe\)](#).

Additionally, [Orange County](#) is opening two locations – Locust Grove Primary School and the Hornet Sports Center – for residents to fill water bottles. Shower access will also be available at the Hornet Sports Center.

The Wilderness WTP waterworks serves the Lake of the Woods subdivision, Wilderness Shores, Somerset, Edgewood, Germanna Heights, Twin Lakes, Germanna Community College Locust Grove campus, two shopping centers with several restaurants on Route 3.

For more information, please contact Rapidan Service Authority at (540) 972-2133. Updates will be posted on the [RSA website](#). For additional questions, contact VDH's Call Center at 877-829-4682 (Option 2), The VDH Call Center is available Monday–Friday (except holidays) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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