



8560 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax, Virginia 22031

PLANNING & ENGINEERING DIVISION
Nat Atapoor, P.E., CCM
Director
(703) 289-6325

April 6, 2021

Re: Occoquan Shoreline Easement Policy

Dear Occoquan Reservoir Property Owner:

As the weather gets warmer, are you thinking of what needs to be done to maintain your home and property? Are you getting advertisements for tree cutting or lawn maintenance in the mail? **Please remember, if you are thinking of making changes to your shoreline property, permission from Fairfax Water is required before starting any work within Fairfax Water's easement.** Please keep the health of the Occoquan Reservoir in mind when taking any actions near the shoreline.

You are receiving this letter because there is a Fairfax Water easement located on your property. Fairfax Water's easement varies in height above the normal water surface elevation for each shoreline property as set forth in the recorded easement for a particular property. As a rule of thumb, Fairfax Water's easement extends over the land approximately 8 to 10 feet in vertical distance above the "full-pool" water surface elevation. These lands adjacent to the Occoquan Reservoir are also part of the Resource Protection Area (RPA). They have essential water quality value and are sensitive to impacts which may result in degradation to the quality of the water. Therefore, certain activities are restricted within the easement.

Any land disturbance within Fairfax Water's easement including, but not limited to, dock installations, construction, vegetation removal, or land-disturbing activity requires written approval from Fairfax Water. Additional permits or approvals may be needed from County, State, and Federal agencies.

Fairfax Water's Shoreline Easement Policy explains what is allowed within our easement. The goal of the policy is to maintain the safety and integrity of the region's public drinking water supply through the preservation of a naturally vegetated stable buffer around the reservoir. Please see the enclosed Policy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) or visit www.fairfaxwater.org/shoreline-easement-policy for more details and applications.

If you are interested in stabilizing an eroding shoreline, property owners may apply for Fairfax Water's Water Supply Stakeholder Grant Program, which provides limited funds for stabilization projects along the Occoquan Reservoir. This year's deadline for applications is May 17, 2021. For more information, visit www.fairfaxwater.org/grants.

I am available to help you navigate through the process of obtaining required approvals from Fairfax Water. If you have any questions, please contact me at 703-289-6303 or nbellezza@fairfaxwater.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicki Bellezza".

Nicki Bellezza

Watershed Protection Specialist