

Bedford Regional Water Authority
1723 Falling Creek Road
Bedford, Virginia 24523
Phone: 540-586-7679, ext. 121
Fax: 540-586-5805
Email: mpittman@brwa.com



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Booster Station Keeps Water Flowing During Power Outages and Storms

A state-of-the-art booster station at the Bedford Regional Water Authority (BRWA) played a crucial role in keeping water flowing to customers in Forest, Bedford, and Smith Mountain Lake, even when power outages and mechanical issues prevented the normal water supply from Smith Mountain Lake during the snow and ice storm.

"We are proud of the innovative work our team has done with this booster station," said Brian Key, Executive Director of the Bedford Regional Water Authority. "This system gives us an added layer of security, ensuring that we can continue providing reliable water service to our customers even during power outages or extreme weather events. The January 5th storm proved just how essential this asset is, and I'm grateful for the dedication of our staff and partners who made it possible to put this pump station online."

The innovative booster station, which was constructed in 2023, allows the BRWA to send water through its main pipelines in both directions. While this may sound simple, it is actually a rare feature for most water systems. Having this two-way flow capability gives the BRWA extra reliability, ensuring that water can still be delivered even if one water source or treatment plant is unavailable.

The BRWA partnered with a design-build team to complete this one-of-a-kind booster station. The project was challenging, as such a system had never been implemented before at any other water utility in Virginia. It took creativity and advanced skills from the engineers and the BRWA staff to make sure that the station could work in any of the nine flow scenarios to move water between the three different water sources in each of the three service areas.

The booster station proved its value during the recent snow and ice storm when power outages at Smith Mountain Lake made it impossible to pump water from the lake. Thanks to the new booster station, water was pumped from Forest and the Town to Smith Mountain Lake, keeping water flowing to all customers during the storm. The BRWA staff worked around the clock to ensure the station operated smoothly, and customers experienced no interruptions in service.



Contractors working on the booster station.

About the Bedford Regional Water Authority:

The Bedford Regional Water Authority (BRWA) provides water and wastewater services to the residents and businesses in Bedford County and the Town of Bedford; additionally, the BRWA partners with the Western Virginia Water Authority to serve customers surrounding Smith Mountain Lake in both Bedford and Franklin County. Visit www.brwa.com for further information.

For information contact:

Megan Pittman
Director of Administration
Bedford Regional Water Authority
540-586-7679 ext. 121
mpittman@brwa.com
www.brwa.com

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