



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BUREAU OF SAFE DRINKING WATER

June 22, 2015

Dear Public Water Supplier:

We are writing to inform you about the drought watch declaration Secretary Quigley announced on June 17, 2015, on behalf of Governor Tom Wolf. The expanded drought watch declaration added the following 10 counties:

Bedford, Blair, Center, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lehigh, Mifflin, and Northampton.

The 27 Counties that remain under drought watch are: Berks, Bradford, Cambria, Carbon, Clinton, Columbia, Indiana, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, Westmoreland and Wyoming.

This declaration was in response to below-normal precipitation over the fall and winter months in addition to low groundwater levels for parts of the Commonwealth, in particular the northeast.

Please review your Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) and update your DCP, if necessary, to account for any changes in either your sources or the demands on your system. If you do not have a DCP, or your existing DCP is older than 3 years, you should be preparing one. If you are preparing one for the first time, we have information available to help you, and we can provide technical assistance by calling our Planning and Conservation Division at the number below. After you have completed your DCP, you should submit it to us for review and approval. DCPs can be submitted online through our new Drought Emergency Application available at: www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/DEA/.

We encourage you to use the Drought Information Center on our website at: www.dep.state.pa.us, Keyword: Drought or www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/drought_information/21263.

We post drought updates on this website on a regular basis to keep you informed of emerging conditions. The website also either provides or links to information that is useful for monitoring conditions in your area or educating your customers in various methods of conserving water. If you have a website, you may wish to consider linking directly to the Drought Information Center so your customers will have ready access to our information as well.

Remember, in a drought watch, we should all be seeking to reduce water use by about 5 percent through voluntary conservation measures. During a warning, our goal is 10-15 percent reductions, still through voluntary measures.

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Under a gubernatorial emergency proclamation, public water suppliers providing service to 50 or more customer connections with sources or a service area within a designated drought emergency area are required to develop, adopt, and submit a DCP to the Planning and Conservation Division for approval. In addition, should bans on nonessential water uses become mandatory, water rationing may be approved, if necessary, by the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator, as agent of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Council. Prudent use of our resources now can help to prevent, or at least delay, the need for emergency measures later.

If you have any questions, or we can be of assistance to you in any way, please feel free to contact our Planning and Conservation Division by e-mail at droughtinfo@pa.gov or by telephone at 717.772.4048.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Mittner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David G. Mittner, P.E.
Commonwealth Drought Coordinator