



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 8555
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8555
August 9, 2007

Bureau of Watershed Management
Office of Commonwealth Drought Coordinator

717-772-4048

--- DROUGHT WATCH ---

Dear Public Water Supplier:

We are writing to inform you about the drought watch declaration, which Secretary Kathleen McGinty announced on Monday, August 6, 2007 on behalf of Governor Ed Rendell. This declaration is for the following 58 counties:

Adams	Columbia	Lackawanna	Snyder
Allegheny	Crawford	Lawrence	Somerset
Armstrong	Cumberland	Lebanon	Sullivan
Beaver	Dauphin	Luzerne	Susquehanna
Bedford	Elk	Lycoming	Tioga
Blair	Erie	McKean	Union
Bradford	Fayette	Mercer	Venango
Butler	Forest	Mifflin	Warren
Cambria	Franklin	Monroe	Washington
Cameron	Fulton	Montour	Wayne
Carbon	Greene	Northumberland	Westmoreland
Centre	Huntingdon	Perry	Wyoming
Clarion	Indiana	Pike	York
Clearfield	Jefferson	Potter	
Clinton	Juniata	Schuylkill	

The declaration comes in response to escalating precipitation deficits, low stream flows and declining ground water levels. Ninety-day accumulated precipitation deficits extend up to about -5.6 inches within the 58 county region.

Now is the time to begin conserving ground water supplies for the remainder of summer and fall, when those supplies become naturally depleted by drawdowns. Ground water normally depletes during the summer/fall months and does not recover until after the foliage is down in the late fall. Until that time, evapo-transpiration consumes nearly all rainfall that does not run off directly to streams, and very little if any rainfall penetrates to our ground water aquifers.



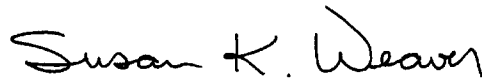
Please review your drought contingency plan and update your plan if necessary to account for any changes in either your sources or the demands on your system. If you do not have a drought contingency plan, you should be preparing one. If you are preparing one for the first time, we have information available to help you, and we can provide technical assistance. Call our Division of Water Use Planning at the number above if you need assistance. After you have completed your plan, you should submit it to us for review and approval.

We encourage you to use the Drought Information Center on our web site at <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us> (keyword "Drought"). We post drought updates on that site on a regular basis to keep you informed of emerging conditions. That site also either provides or links to information that is useful for monitoring conditions in your area or for educating your customers in various methods of conserving water. If you have a web site, you may wish to consider linking directly to our site, 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. Under a gubernatorial emergency proclamation, bans on nonessential water uses become mandatory, and water rationing may also be employed if necessary, with the approval of 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 Division of Water Use Planning at 717-772-4048 or e-mail at droughtinfo@state.pa.us .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan K. Weaver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" and "W".

Susan K. Weaver, P.E.
Commonwealth Drought Coordinator