



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

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P.O. Box 8555

Harrisburg, PA 17105-8555

November 12, 2008

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 Acting Secretary John Hanger announced on Friday, November 7, 2008 on behalf of Governor Ed Rendell. This declaration is for the following 29 counties:

Allegheny	Clearfield	Indiana	Tioga
Armstrong	Clinton	Jefferson	Venango
Beaver	Crawford	Lawrence	Warren
Butler	Elk	Lycoming	Washington
Cambria	Erie	McKean	Westmoreland
Cameron	Fayette	Mercer	
Centre	Forest	Potter	
Clarion	Greene	Somerset	

The declaration comes in response to below-normal precipitation over the past two to three months, resulting in rainfall deficits of as much as five inches in parts of western and northcentral Pennsylvania.

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.

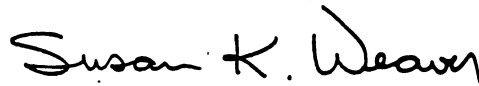
Remember, in a drought watch, we should all be seeking to reduce water use by about 5 percent through voluntary conservation measures. During a warning, our goal is 10-15 percent reductions, still through voluntary measures. Under a gubernatorial emergency proclamation, bans on nonessential water uses 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 by e-mail at droughtinfo@state.pa.us or by phone at 717-772-4048.

Sincerely,

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

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