

December 21, 2016

# ---DROUGHT WARNING/DROUGHT WATCH---

## Dear Public Water Supplier:

Effective December 16, 2016, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) moved Mifflin, Juniata, Snyder and Union Counties from drought watch to drought warning status due to precipitation departures from normal, in addition to low groundwater and surface water levels.

### **Drought Status**

The following is the list of Pennsylvania counties and their current drought declaration status:

#### **Drought Warning:**

Carbon, Juniata, Lehigh, Mifflin, Monroe, Northampton, Snyder and Union.

## **Drought Watch:**

Adams, Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Center, Chester, Clinton, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Luzerne, Montgomery, Northumberland, Perry, Philadelphia, Pike, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Wayne and York.

#### **Normal Status:**

Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Blair, Bradford, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Columbia, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Montour, Potter, Somerset, Susquehanna, Tioga, Venango, Warren, Washington, Westmoreland, and Wyoming.

#### **Recommended Water Use Reductions:**

- Drought watch: Seek 5 percent reduction through voluntary conservation measures.
- Drought warning: Seek 10-15 percent reductions through voluntary measures.

## Your Drought Contingency Plan

If you do not have a DCP, or your existing DCP is older than 3 years, you should be preparing one. If you're preparing one for the first time, we have information available to help you at our www.dep.pa.gov/Drought. Refer to the DCP Checklist and Drought Management Guidelines

under the Public Water Supply section on the drought forms page. For technical assistance, please call our Planning and Conservation Division at 717.772.4048.

After you have completed your DCP, you should submit it to us for review and approval. DCPs can be submitted online through the Drought Emergency Application link on the drought forms web page.

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 on methods of conserving water. If you have a website, you may wish to link directly to the Drought Information Center so your customers have ready access to our information as well.

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 at droughtinfo@pa.gov or 717.772.4048.

Sincerely,

David B. Jostenski, P.E.

Commonwealth Drought Coordinator