



August 5, 2011

---DROUGHT WATCH/DROUGHT WARNING---

Dear Public Water Supplier:

We are writing to inform you about the drought watch and warning declaration, which Secretary Mike Krancer announced on Friday, August 5, 2011, on behalf of Governor Tom Corbett. The drought watch declaration is for the following 40 counties:

Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Bradford, Bucks, Butler, Cambria, Centre, Chester, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Crawford, Dauphin, Delaware, Erie, Forest, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lancaster, Lawrence, Lebanon, Lycoming, Mercer, Mifflin, Montgomery, Perry, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Tioga, Venango, Warren and Wyoming.

The drought warning declaration is for the following 4 counties:

Cameron, Elk, McKean and Potter.

These declarations come in response to below-normal precipitation over the past 90 days, resulting in precipitation deficits as great as 4.1 inches below normal in Elk County and 4.4 inches below normal in Chester County.

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, 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 below if you need assistance. After you have completed your DCP, you should submit it to us for review and approval.

We encourage you to use the [Drought Information Center](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/drought_information/10606) on our Web site or at http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/drought_information/10606.

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, 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 Division of Water Use Planning for approval. In addition, 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 email at droughtinfo@pa.gov 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, slightly slanted style.

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