



September 16, 2010

---DROUGHT WATCH/ DROUGHT WARNING---

Dear Public Water Supplier:

We are writing to inform you about the drought watch and warning declaration, which Secretary John Hanger announced on Thursday, September 16, 2010 on behalf of Governor Ed Rendell. The drought watch declaration is for the following 43 counties:

Adams, Armstrong, Blair, Bradford, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Chester, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Elk, Erie, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lycoming, McKean, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Venango, Warren, Wayne, Westmoreland, Wyoming and York.

The drought warning declaration is for the following 24 counties:

Allegheny, Beaver, Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Fayette, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Lehigh, Luzerne, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Schuylkill, Somerset and Washington.

These declarations come in response to below-normal precipitation over the past several months, resulting in rainfall deficits as much as five inches in parts of southwestern and eastern 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](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us) on our Web site or 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 email at droughtinfo@state.pa.us or by phone at 717-772-4048.

Sincerely,



Susan K. Weaver, P.E.

Commonwealth Drought Coordinator

E-Mail DEP

droughtinfo@state.pa.us

Web Links

[Drought Information Center](#)

[DEP](#)



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Department of Environmental Protection

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