



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 the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator**

717-772-4048

Dear Golf Course Manager:

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 responds to escalating precipitation deficits, low stream flows and declining groundwater levels. Ninety-day accumulated precipitation deficits extend up to about -5.6 inches within the 58 county region.

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.

In recognition of the possibility of increased stress on our water resources, we are writing to remind you of your obligations under the drought emergency regulations. A copy of the regulatory provisions that specifically address golf courses is enclosed for your information. If conditions in the future deem it necessary for declaration of a drought emergency in any county, the regulations require all golf courses in a declared emergency area to irrigate in accordance with an approved emergency operations plan. The Commonwealth Drought Coordinator must approve this plan, prior to initiation of irrigation during the emergency. We have also enclosed a copy of the emergency operations plan application form for your use, should you choose to apply. An identification number has been provided above your address on the envelope from this mailing. This is your WUDS-PFID number. Please enter



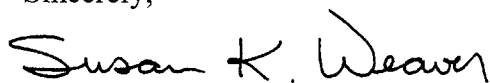
this number on the first page of the emergency operations plan application form where it asks for the WUDS-PFID number. If you don't have a WUDS-PFID number, please leave the field blank on the form.

A key provision of plan approval is a requirement for metering of all irrigation water. First, the quantities of water approved in the plan must be based upon metered historical irrigation data, subsequent to July 7, 2002. Equally important, any water used for irrigation during an emergency must be metered, as well. If your system is not metered, you may wish to consider installing meters.

Some golf courses hold approved emergency operations plans dating back to the drought emergency of 2002. The regulations provide that approved plans must be no more than three years old, so the previous plans are no longer valid. If you hold one of those plans, please be aware that you will need to reapply in order to irrigate should we experience a drought emergency in your area this year.

Should you choose to apply for approval of an emergency operations plan for your golf course, you should complete the enclosed application and return it to our office at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions or need assistance in completing an emergency operations plan application, please feel free to contact our office 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 initial 'S' and 'W'.

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

Enclosures