

July 27, 2012

---DROUGHT WATCH---

Dear Public Water Supplier:

This letter is to inform you about the drought watch declaration Secretary Krancer announced on July 19, 2012, on behalf of Governor Tom Corbett. The drought watch declaration is for the following 15 western counties:

Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Warren, and Washington.

This declaration was in response to below-normal precipitation over the summer months that exacerbated the relatively dry winter for many parts of this Commonwealth.

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 by calling our Planning and Conservation Division at the number below. 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 on our website at: [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us), Keyword: Drought or [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/drought\\_information/10606](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/drought_information/10606). 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 in various methods of conserving water. If you have a website, you may wish to consider linking directly to the Drought Information Center 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 Planning and Conservation Division for approval. In addition, should bans on nonessential water uses become mandatory, water rationing may be approved, if necessary, by 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 Planning and Conservation Division by e-mail at [droughtinfo@pa.gov](mailto:droughtinfo@pa.gov) or by telephone at 717.772.4048.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan K. Weaver".

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