



LINCOLN COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITIES
CHRIS HENDERSON
MANAGER

NEWS RELEASE

VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION REQUEST

January 05, 2022

Lincoln County, like many other jurisdictions in the North Carolina piedmont, has experienced record demand on its water system over the last several weeks. Despite recent rainfall that has occurred in parts of the local area, overall lack of sufficient rainfall combined with warm, dry weather has led many residents of Lincoln County to increase the practice of using additional water which may exceed supply or demand.

The Catawba-Wateree River Basin entered Stage 0 of the LIP on January 04, 2022 which is a drought watch stage and has prompted the Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group (CW-DMAG) to closely monitor conditions. After observing declining trends, it has been decided to proactively declare Stage 0 conditions. It is hoped that if everyone makes an effort to reduce water consumption at this time, future mandatory restrictions can be avoided.

Lincoln County follows the CW-DMAG protocol for a Stage 0 declaration for water conservation. A Stage 0 Water Shortage, as defined in the Lincoln County Water Conservation Ordinance, indicates the need to reduce consumption to avoid any possible future voluntary or mandatory restrictions. More severe water use restrictions may be avoided by reducing demand on the water supply reservoirs before the drought conditions worsen. *Please review the Schedule of Fees and Charges for Water and Sewer Services (effective July 01, 2021) for any rate changes under future voluntary and mandatory restrictions that may affect your water and sewer monthly bill. Rates can be found at www.LincolnCounty.org.* The CW-DMAG news release is attached for additional details.

We encourage our water customers to observe the following VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION guidelines as outlined in the Ordinance:

- (a) limit car washing – use a hose-end nozzle to avoid wasting water;
- (b) limit lawn, garden, and shrubbery watering to the minimum necessary for plants to survive and reuse household water when possible – a healthy lawn needs no more than 1 inch of water per week – water lawns and shrubbery after 10:00 PM or before 6:00 AM to reduce water losses due to evaporation;
- (c) eliminate washing down of outside areas such as sidewalks, patios, parking lots, service bays or aprons;
- (d) eliminate continuous running of water while shaving or rinsing dishes;
- (e) limit the use of washing machines and dishwashers and operate only when fully loaded;
- (f) use showers instead of bathtubs for bathing and limit showers to no more than four minutes' duration;
- (g) limit flushing of toilets by multiple usage, when possible;
- (h) limit hours of operation of water-cooled air conditioners, when possible;
- (i) use biodegradable and/or disposable dishes to save on dishwashing;
- (j) use flow restriction and other water-saving devices where possible; and
- (k) delay new landscape work until the water shortage has ended.

Drought indicators and demand on our water system will continue to be monitored by the County, and the public will be notified of any changes in the water shortage conditions. Please call Lincoln County Public Works at 704-736-8495 if you have questions.

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o. 704-736-8495



chenderson@lincolncounty.org



115 WEST MAIN STREET | LINCOLNTON NC 28092

CATAWBA-WATEREE DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

News Release

Jan. 4, 2022

Media Contacts: See local water jurisdiction contacts below

Unusually Dry Conditions and Low Streamflow Put Catawba-Wateree Basin in Drought Watch

The Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group (CW-DMAG) announced today that dry weather conditions have placed the Catawba-Wateree River Basin in Stage 0 of the group's drought protocol. Stage 0 is a drought watch stage that notifies CW-DMAG members to monitor conditions more closely.

Stage 0 was reached on Jan. 4, 2022.

"There are no required actions by the community at this stage, but water and energy conservation are strongly encouraged, especially with the expected dry months ahead," said Ed Bruce, P.E., Duke Energy, CW-DMAG coordinator. "We will continue to monitor conditions and provide updates as needed to best protect the water supply available to our communities."

Due to significantly limited rainfall in 2021, water storage in the 11-reservoir Catawba-Wateree Basin has decreased and streamflows that feed the reservoirs are below normal. In addition, the U.S. Drought Monitor trigger indicates most of the basin is experiencing worsening drought conditions. Duke Energy rain gauges show the region received less than half the expected rainfall in the final four months of 2021. The rainfall over the past several days, though helpful, was not enough to significantly change the underlying drought conditions.

The group's drought protocol, known as the Low Inflow Protocol (LIP), is the drought management plan major water users in the region use to share responsibility and set priorities to conserve the limited water supply during drought conditions. Stage 0 is the first of five drought stages outlined in the protocol and is a drought watch stage.

CW-DMAG was established in 2006 to monitor drought status and to recommend coordinated actions for CW-DMAG members. CW-DMAG members include the area's public water suppliers and several large industrial users withdrawing water from the rivers and lake system, North Carolina and South Carolina resource agencies, other federal agencies and Duke Energy.

CW-DMAG and the LIP resulted from Duke Energy's relicensing process for the Catawba-Wateree Hydroelectric Project. The LIP is part of Duke Energy's federal operating license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). CW-DMAG meets at least monthly when conditions reach Stage 0 or greater of the LIP. For more information about CW-DMAG and the LIP, visit www.duke-energy.com/lakes/cwdmag.asp.

If community members have specific questions about recommended measures, they are encouraged to contact their local water supplier.

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Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group

Contacts for Local Water Jurisdictions

Belmont, NC

Bill Carroll, Public Works Director
704-825-0506
bcarroll@cityofbelmont.org

Camden, SC

Ray Peterson, Deputy Public Works Director
803-425-6045
rpeterson@camdensc.org

Tom Couch, Public Works Director
803-425-6045
tcouch@camdensc.org

Catawba River Water Treatment Plant (SC)

Randy Hawkins
803-205-0041
rhawkins@crwtp.org

Charlotte Water

Jennifer Frost, Public Affairs Manager
704-507-6565
jennifer.frost@charlottenc.gov

Chester Metropolitan District (SC)

Fred Castles, Executive Director
803-385-5123
fcastles@cmdcsd.com

Duke Energy

Ben Williamson
770-362-4854
benjamin.williamson@duke-energy.com

Gastonia, NC – Two Rivers Utilities

Mary Elliott, Director of Communications & Marketing 704-866-6749
Marye@cityofgastonia.com

Sharon Foote, Communications Specialist
704-869-7865
sharonf@cityofgastonia.com

Granite Falls, NC

Randy Smith, Water Resources Director
828-396-2989
smith@granitefallsc.com

Hickory, NC

Sarah Killian, Communications Specialist
828-261-2290
skillian@hickorync.gov

Dana Kaminske, Communications and Marketing Manager
828-261-2289
dkaminske@hickorync.gov

Lancaster County Water & Sewer District (SC)

Brad Bucy, District Manager
803-416-5523
bbucy@lcwasd.org

Lenoir, NC

Joshua Harris, Public Information Officer
828-757-2177
jharris@ci.lenoir.nc.us

Lincoln County, NC

Chris Henderson, Public Utilities Manager
704-736-8500
chenderson@lincolncounty.org

Jonathan Drazenovich, County Engineer 704-732-9014
jdrazenovich@lincolncounty.org

Long View, NC

Chris Eckard, Public Works Director
828-322-3921
chris.eckardtlv@yahoo.com

Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority (SC)

Michael (Mike) Hancock, General Manager
803-438-2991
lugoffh20@aol.com

Mooreville, NC

Megan Pleasant, Communications & Marketing Specialist
704-799-4232
mpleasant@moorevillenc.gov

Allison Kraft, Public Utilities Director
704-799-4066
akraft@moorevillenc.gov

Morganton, NC

Brad Boris, Water Resources Director
828-438-5285
bboris@morgantonnc.gov

Mt Holly, NC

David Johnson, Utilities Director
704-951-0074 x1002
David.johnson@mtholly.us

Rock Hill, SC

Katie Quinn, Communications & Marketing Manager
803-326-3791; 803-448-9745 (cell)
Katie.quinn@cityofrockhill.com

Statesville, NC

Nancy Davis, Public Affairs Director
704-878-3586; 704-437-6669 (cell)
Ndavis@statesvillenc.net

Union County, NC

Hyong Yi, Public Works Administrator
704-296-4210
Hyong.Yi@unioncountync.gov

Valdese, NC

Greg Padgett, Public Services Director
828-874-6789
gpadgett@valdesenc.gov

York County, SC

Eric Rekitt, Public Works Director
803-628-3188
eric.rekitt@yorkcountygov.com

Raymond Bailey, Water & Sewer Utility Manager
803-818-6507
raymond.bailey@yorkcountygov.com