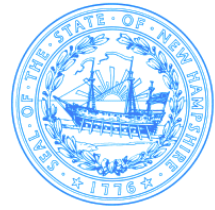




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

June 2018

Drought Guidance for Public Water Systems

Persistent drought conditions in New Hampshire have resulted in water supply issues for public water systems. Below is information related to mitigating drought conditions and managing impacts.

Drought Conditions

To stay informed on the latest drought conditions and current drought related information go to the NHDES Drought Management Program webpage at:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/drought/index.htm>. To determine the severity of drought in your area, under “Technical Assistance” click on “Drought Conditions” and then on “US Drought Monitor”.

Water Use Restrictions

Community water systems have the authority to restrict water use. Reviewing conditions at the link above, as well as gathering information on more local conditions and assessing your well supply will help your system to determine if restrictions should be mandatory or voluntary and how strict the restrictions should be. For examples of restriction options, see ii) below.

- i) Implement mandatory restrictions on non-essential use if it is determined demand will exceed supply. (See Env-Dw 503.18-503.20 and Env-Dw 503.09):
<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/index.htm>
- ii) Implement voluntary restrictions or implement mandatory restrictions through the adoption of ordinances and bylaws using the model regulation and restriction options found here:
http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/water_conservation/documents/water_use_restrictions.pdf.

During certain dry periods and during drought, NHDES will maintain a list of systems implementing restrictions on the Drought Management Program webpage. To add your water system to the restriction list, please fill out the form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/322ZQG2>. If you have questions, e-mail Stacey Herbold, NHDES Water Conservation Program, at stacey.herbold@des.nh.gov.

Communicating with Customers

Use social media, email, local television, road signs, and newspapers to provide the public with updates on the drought and the importance of conserving. Find water conservation tips at:

Water efficiency tips and information:

http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/water_conservation/categories/education.htm

Drought Guidance for the Public

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/drought/documents/publicemergency.pdf>

Emergency Actions

In the event of a drought, water conservation measures may not be enough, and a system may need to bulk in water supplies and/or seek approval of an emergency supply well. For further details on the requirements of bulk water and emergency supply wells, as well as assistance and aid go to:

http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/wseps/bulk_water.htm

Also, all community water systems are required to have an emergency plan in place. Reviewing the system's emergency plan will help to make sure everyone is on the same page in the event of an emergency.

NHDES Contacts

Large Public Water System Water Shortages: Rick Skarinka richard.skarinka@des.nh.gov (603) 271-2948

Lake Levels: Jim Gallagher james.gallagher@des.nh.gov (603) 271-1961

Small Public Water Systems Water Shortages: Shelley Frost shelley.frost@des.nh.gov (603) 271-2949

Stream Flows: Ted Diers ted.diers@des.nh.gov (603) 271-3289

Water Restrictions, Lawn Watering and Water Restriction Ordinances, Water Efficiency: Stacey Herbold stacey.herbold@des.nh.gov (603) 271-6685