



COUNTY OF LINCOLN, NORTH CAROLINA

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NEWS RELEASE VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION REQUEST July 20, 2015

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 hot, dry weather has led many residents of Lincoln County to increase the practice of using irrigation systems on their lawns.

Earlier this month, the Catawba-Wataree River Basin entered Stage 0 of the LIP which is a drought watch stage and prompted the Catawba-Wataree Drought Management Advisory Group (CW-DMAG) to closely monitor conditions. After observing declining trends, it has been decided to proactively declare Stage 1 conditions. It is hoped that if everyone makes an effort to reduce water consumption by 3% to 5% at this time, future mandatory restrictions can be avoided.

Lincoln County follows the CW-DMAG protocol for a Stage 1 declaration for water conservation. A Stage 1 Water Shortage, as defined in the Lincoln County Water Conservation Ordinance, indicates the need to reduce consumption by an amount of 3% to 5%. 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, 2015) for rate changes under voluntary 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 704-736-8497 if you have questions.

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CATAWBA-WATEREE DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

News Release

July 20, 2015

Media Contacts: See local water jurisdiction contacts below

Continued Hot Weather and Low Rainfall Puts Catawba-Wataree Basin in Stage 1 of Drought Protocol

Community Reminded to Conserve

The Catawba-Wataree Drought Management Advisory Group (CW-DMAG) today announced continued dry weather conditions and above-average temperatures have placed the Catawba-Wataree River Basin in Stage 1 of the Low Inflow Protocol (LIP).

Stage 1 is the second of five drought stages outlined in the LIP and recommends voluntary water conservation by water users across the Basin, in addition to operational adjustments by Duke Energy. The LIP is the drought management plan major water users in the region employ to share responsibility and set priorities to conserve the limited water supply during drought conditions.

“While some areas of the Basin have received scattered rainfall, the lack of widespread precipitation the past several weeks and high temperatures have resulted in increased drought conditions,” said Ed Bruce, P.E., Duke Energy, CW-DMAG coordinator. “We are asking the community to conserve water and energy as we enter the height of the summer season and the typically drier fall period.”

Continued below normal rainfall and very hot temperatures have pushed two of the three LIP drought indicators (triggers) into Stage 1. Water storage in the 11-reservoir Catawba-Wataree Hydroelectric Project continues to decline and streamflows feeding the reservoirs are well below normal. In addition, the U.S. Drought Monitor trigger indicates most of the Basin is experiencing drought conditions.

Earlier this month, the Catawba-Wataree River Basin entered Stage 0 of the LIP which is a drought watch stage and prompted the CW-DMAG to closely monitor conditions. After observing declining trends in the triggers, the group decided to proactively declare Stage 1 conditions.

“We wanted to be proactive in making the community aware of increased drought conditions and ask customers to be mindful of water use,” explained Barry McKinnon, Mooresville Public Utilities Director. “The sooner we start conserving, the better for our region as we work together to preserve our shared water resources.”

The CW-DMAG will continue monitoring the drought conditions and work collectively to protect the water supply and other uses of the Catawba-Wataree River.

The Catawba-Wataree Drought Management Advisory Group (CW-DMAG) was established in 2006 to monitor drought status and to recommend coordinated actions for the CW-DMAG members. CW-DMAG members include the area’s public water suppliers and several large industries withdrawing water from the Catawba-Wataree River and lake system, North Carolina, South Carolina and federal resource agencies and Duke Energy. The CW-DMAG and the LIP are outcomes of Duke Energy’s relicensing process for the Catawba-Wataree Hydroelectric Project. The LIP will become part of Duke Energy’s New License which is expected to be issued by the Federal Energy

Regulatory Commission (FERC) later this year. The CW-DMAG meets at least monthly when conditions reach Stage 0 or greater of the LIP. For more information about the 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

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