

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

DWS Circular Letter #2014-14

To: Community Public Water Systems that have Emergency Contingency Plans pursuant to CGS Section 25-32d

From: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief *L. Mathieu*
Drinking Water Section

Date: October 21, 2014

Subject: Review Stages of Response and Trigger Levels; Reservoir Capacity Reporting

In order to prepare for the possibility that you may need to enact your emergency contingency plan in the future due to the low precipitation, the Department of Public Health (DPH) is requesting that each Community Public Water System review its stages of response and trigger levels outlined in the existing plan. In accordance with the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies 25-32d-3(d)(10), please notify Robert Baran of my office at robert.baran@ct.gov when a drought stage trigger is imminent. This information can be submitted on the surface water capacity form here: http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking_water/pdf/sw_capacity_reporting.pdf. We are also requesting all public water systems that use surface water to begin using this form for the required reservoir capacity reporting.

During this prolonged period of low precipitation, the State Interagency Drought Workgroup has been actively monitoring data and trends on emerging drought conditions. The workgroup meets as necessary to evaluate whether such conditions warrant state agencies to implement any elements of the Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan (www.ct.gov/waterstatus).

DPH is responsible to track and monitor public water systems' reservoir levels in addition to any reports from systems that have triggered a drought stage in their emergency contingency plans. Based upon the September 2014 data provided to DPH, most reservoir capacity levels were still at normal levels. However, there were three reports of Community Public Water Systems triggering their emergency contingency plan. If dry conditions persist it is likely that more source capacities will drop below normal levels.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 860-509-7333. We thank you for your continued efforts to provide this critical information.

Cc: Ellen Blaschinski, Public Health Branch Chief, DPH
Local Health Directors



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