

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER BRANCH

Circular Letter #2020-54

TO: Community Public Water Systems
FROM: Lori J. Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief

Handwritten signature of Lori J. Mathieu, dated 2020.

DATE: July 2, 2020

SUBJECT: Reporting Important Measures in Dry Weather - Reservoir, Ground Water and Water Use Monitoring

In light of the drying conditions that Connecticut is currently experiencing, community public water systems (Systems) are reminded to continue to comply with the requirements in § 19-13-B102(n) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA). Compliance with these reporting requirements is important due to the continued dry conditions. Further, Systems are to report drought trigger level status developed per 25-32d to DPH on a weekly basis.

As noted in the Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section (DWS) [Circular Letter 2020-49](#) issued last week, after a mild winter and a cool, wet spring, the state has entered into a period of dryness with higher temperatures and insufficient precipitation over the past thirty or more days. As of June 25, 2020, US Drought Monitor has placed the four northern counties, Fairfield County and the western part of New Haven County in D0 - abnormally dry status. This stage is used to raise awareness of dry conditions and that if the conditions persist a drought may occur. The northern part of Litchfield County and the northwestern portion of Hartford County were downgraded to D1 – moderate drought status last Thursday. This period of dryness coincides with the beginning of increased demands on community public water systems (CWS) from outdoor water use.

Furthermore, as noted in the Circular Letter EHDW #2020-53, a meeting of the Interagency Drought Workgroup convened on 6/19/2020 and 6/24/2020 to assess and analyze data for determination of current drought stage conditions across the state. The State Drought Plan identifies five drought stages of increasingly dry conditions. Currently, Connecticut is in Stage 1: Below Normal Conditions. Stage 1 is a preliminary preparedness stage intended to advise state, regional, and local officials and public water supplies of potentially worsening drought conditions.



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Weekly Monitoring of Sources of Supply

DWS is reminding community public water systems that RCSA § 19-13-B102(n) requires Systems to perform weekly monitoring of their reservoirs, groundwater and water use. The DWS is asking that community public water systems to collect and submit the following information to the DWS via electronic mail at DPHWaterSupplyCapacity@ct.gov:

A. All Community Public Water Systems, RCSA § 19-13-B102(n)(2)

1. Take, record and retain for reference representative weekly readings of instantaneous flow rate and total quantity of water delivered over the previous week.
2. For systems with only ground water sources and that serve 1000 or less or 250 service connections or less, submit the results of such weekly readings to the DWS on the Monday following the week in which the community public water system experiences a decrease in the instantaneous flow rate or an increase in the total quantity of water delivered over the previous week, or both, that is more than a 20% difference from the week before. The community public water system shall submit on that Monday the weekly readings for the two-week period of time during which the system noticed a 20% difference in such readings.

3. Community Public Water Systems that Maintain a Reservoir, RCSA § 19-13-B102(n)(3)

1. Record weekly on the Surface Water Capacity Reporting form the status of the reservoir, including water elevation, instantaneous usable storage capacity, reservoir withdrawals, and amount of precipitation.
2. Submit the completed Surface Water Capacity Reporting form to the DWS **every Monday** for the previous week's readings.

B. Community Public Water Systems with a Ground Water Source in an Unconsolidated, Unconfined Aquifer, RCSA § 19-13-B102(n)(4)

1. Record on the Ground Water Level Monitoring and Reporting form daily the ground water status, including measurements of instantaneous pumping rates and ground water elevations for each ground water source.
2. Submit the completed Ground Water Level Monitoring and Reporting form to the DWS **every Monday** for the previous week's readings.

D. Community Public Water Systems that Serve More Than 1,000 or 250 Service Connections, RCSA § 19-13-B102(n)(5)

1. Record weekly the water use of the community public water system, including measurements of the volume of water withdrawn from each source of supply and for the total system, the volume of water bought from or sold to another public water system, and the type of restrictions, if any, imposed on water use.
2. Submit the weekly water use information to the DWS **every Monday** for the previous week's readings.

Conservation Recommendations and Requirements

The DWS encourages all public water systems to practice water conservation to reduce average daily demands by 15%. Reductions in daily use can offer much needed relief to sources that face a critically low number of remaining days of supply and water quality issues due to high demands. To that end, the DWS is requiring that Public Water Systems:

- Report any outages of water service and related rehabilitation to services and sources that may happen as the result of the current dry conditions to the DWS and relevant health directors.
- Record all consumer complaints regarding the quality or quantity of water per §19-13-B102(1)(1)(F).
- Notify the DWS of any bulk water hauling per RCSA §19-13-B46.
- Use [DPH licensed bulk water haulers](#) pursuant to Section 20-278h of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- Review all back up and emergency sources/interconnections.
- Review appropriateness of the drought trigger levels within your Emergency Contingency Plan developed pursuant to 25-32d and in preparation for potentially worsening conditions. As appropriate, the drought trigger levels should be amended to give sufficient lead time to adequately implement response actions and reflect an adequate number of remaining days of supply in time of an emergency.
- Report current drought status to DPH on a weekly basis
- Work as feasible with the municipalities you serve on drafting and enacting a local water use restriction ordinance.
- Proactively repair leaks and assess and reduce to at least 15% the unaccounted-for water in your distribution system.

The DWS will hold a special webinar on Thursday, July 2, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. to address the current dry conditions and to emphasize the importance of proactive measures by the public water systems.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the DWS by electronic mail at DWDcompliance@ct.gov, if you have any questions or run into any issues with respect to your public water system.

c: Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Deputy Commissioner, DPH