

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner

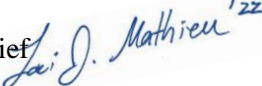


Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER BRANCH

EHDW Circular Letter #2022-51

TO: Windham and New London County Public Water Systems, Certified Water Operators

FROM: Lori J. Mathieu, Branch Chief 

DATE: August 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Stage 3 Drought Declaration for Windham and New London Counties

On August 18, 2022, Governor Lamont declared Stage 3 drought conditions for New London and Windham, Counties. The Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW) met on August 18, 2022 and voted to recommend to the Governor that Windham and New London Counties be placed in Stage 3 Drought based on current conditions. Stage 3 is the 3rd stage of 5 increasingly severe stages of drought. Based on CT's Drought Preparedness and Response Plan, the following actions are listed for Stage 3 for water suppliers in Windham and New London counties:

- Coordination & Management
 - Review operations to ensure that conservation efforts are maximized. Non-critical utility uses of water should be reviewed to eliminate, reduce, or be delayed. Such uses include but are not limited to routine flushing; clearwell, clarifier or storage tank cleaning; and meter testing.
 - Initiate preparation for mandatory conservation, including necessary enforcement mechanisms.
 - Determine where temporary interconnections between water utilities are needed and coordinate with DEEP and DPH for expedited permitting.
 - Consider preparations to activate "emergency" and "inactive" sources of water supply for potential use and coordinate with DPH.
- Public Outreach & Education
 - Voluntary conservation should be promoted in residential, commercial, and industrial facilities to reduce demand.
- Data Collection, Monitoring, & Preparedness
 - Review adequacy of water monitoring and consumption records and invest in increased monitoring capabilities where needed.



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- Evaluate potential funding needs for actions required under severe or extreme drought conditions to ensure the availability of adequate funding through budgets or emergency measures.
- Initiate increased reservoir level monitoring and reporting as directed by DPH.

Community Water Systems

The Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section (DWS) continues to request that all community water systems:

- Report any water quality issues immediately to the DWS
- Update WEBOC with any status changes or issues.
- Report any outages of water service and any related rehabilitation to services and source that may happen as a result of the current drought to the DWS and relevant local officials through the MDL.
- Review all back up and emergency sources and/or interconnections.
- Notify the DWS of the activation of any emergency sources and/or interconnections.
- Record all consumer complaints regarding quality and quantity of water per § 19-13-B102(1)(1)(F) of the Regulations of Connecticut State regulations (RCSA).
- Notify the DWS of any water hauling per RCSA § 19-13-B46.
- Use licensed haulers per Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-278h.
- Review your current emergency contingency plan to assess its adequacy and timeliness in response to developing drought conditions. Assess your current drought triggers to determine if they remain appropriate in having a timely and effective response to developing drought conditions.
- Notify the DWS of any drought stage changes and any voluntary or mandatory consumption restrictions.
- Report weekly their weekly groundwater and surface water readings by submitting their groundwater and surface water reporting forms to the DPH by email to DPHWaterSupplyCapacity@ct.gov.
- Work as feasible with the municipalities you serve on drafting and enacting local water use restriction ordinances.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the DPH Drinking Water Section 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