

C-W DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

Monday, September 19, 2011

Member Organizations Present:

AbitibiBowater
Catawba River Water Supply Project
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities
Chester Metropolitan District
City of Belmont
City of Camden
City of Gastonia
City of Hickory
City of Lenoir
City of Morganton
City of Mount Holly
City of Rock Hill
City of Statesville
City of Valdese
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
International Paper
Lincoln County
NC DENR Division of Water Quality
NC DENR Division of Water Resources
NC Wildlife Resource Commission
Town of Granite Falls
Town of Mooresville
USGS

Other Organizations Present:

City of Concord
Kearns & West, Inc.
Western Piedmont COG
City of Concord
Union County
York County
City of Kannapolis

Introductions, Agenda Review, and Announcements

1. Ed Bruce, CW-DMAG coordinator, opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda, and called the roll.

Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) Triggers

2. Bruce provided an LIP trigger update. The Storage Index (SI) is close to Stage 2 for this time of year. The area expects some minor rain this week, but the downward trend is expected to resume after that storm passes. The Storage Index could be in Stage 2 by September 30, but it will be very close. The U.S. Drought Monitor's numeric three-month average is slightly worse than it was when reviewed two weeks ago. The only place it has rained significantly in last four to six months was in Charlotte, which is reflective in the rainfall amounts. The four-month streamflow average this September (54.3 to 50.8) is well below last year's 4 month average at this same time (79.0 then dropping to 64.6 in October). Of the groundwater gauges, Langtree and Glen Alpine are the only ones that provide long-term data. The Langtree gauge is normal for this time of year. However, the Glen Alpine gauge has been more affected by the drought. The upper and lower part of the basin has been most affected by lower rainfall.

Duke Operations and Meteorological Update

3. George Galleher gave an update on Duke's system hydrological information. The region has received approximately 82 percent of the long-term average precipitation. An inch of rainfall could occur in the next five days. There is an above-average probability of precipitation in the next two weeks. Duke's commercial forecast suggests a below-average chance of precipitation from September through November. George noted that it's hard to tell if drought conditions in the Catawba area are expected to improve soon. Stream flows look bad, and no change in SI is expected unless tropical activity is received. Evaporation rates will start declining into November, which will help improve conditions.
4. Duke is operating at Stage 1 Minimum Flows.
5. Bridgewater will be out of service September 26 through October 5 and minimum flow valve will be opened during this all.

Residential Water Use

6. Bruce presented the residential water use trends.

Additional comments

7. An LIP trigger update will be provided on September 30.