

CATAWBA-WATEREE DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

News Release

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C-W DMAG Recommends Continuation of Temporary Two-Day-A-Week Outdoor Water Use Restrictions

The Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group (CW-DMAG) today advised its members that current basin conditions can continue to temporarily accommodate up to two days a week of outdoor water use without significant negative impacts on water supplies. This recommendation provides the opportunity for local water suppliers to extend the temporary relaxation of water use restrictions past the original November 30 deadline.

The CW-DMAG noted that, while the Catawba-Wateree Basin remains in a LIP Stage 3 drought overall, seasonal decreases in temperature and natural evaporation, Duke Energy's voluntary limited releases, and continued water conservation by customers are holding the region's water supply at a steady level. Local water suppliers will provide guidance regarding the temporary restrictions specific to their jurisdictions.

"Cooler than normal temperatures and sporadic rainfall are helping drought indicators remain stable and reducing the need for outdoor watering," said Ed Bruce, CW-DMAG coordinator. "While the group is pleased that conditions supported two watering opportunities a week during the optimal planting period, the recommendation for continuation of this temporary relief is dependent on drought indicators remaining stable or improving."

Reservoirs remain just above target levels for this time of year due to continued conservation and an on-going operating protocol by Duke Energy that releases only minimal discharges needed for downstream needs. The CW-DMAG will continue to review drought conditions regularly and re-evaluate recommendations as needed throughout the winter months.

Drought and Weather Indicators

In arriving at its recommendation, the CW-DMAG reviewed the area's major drought indicators along with the National Weather Service's predictions of future weather trends.

The U.S. Drought Monitor map shows the majority of the basin as being in a "Severe" drought but also continues to show a small part of the upper basin classified in an "Extreme" drought which is the second most severe drought classification.

The long-term trends for groundwater levels continue to show mixed results that on average remain steady but are still well below normal for this time of year.

The six-month average of area stream flows remains steady at about 50 percent of the historical six-month average and remains solidly in Stage 3 LIP drought level.

The reservoir storage index holds steady at about 10 percent above target storage levels and remains in LIP Stage 0.

Rainfall: To date, 2008's rainfall has been about 8.8 inches below normal. The National Weather Service is predicting below average precipitation through early December. November is expected to end with below average precipitation.

The Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group (CW-DMAG) was formed to regularly review the drought status and to recommend and coordinate needed actions for the CW-DMAG members. It also reviews the Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) and recommends possible improvements to Duke Energy. Normally scheduled to meet once a year, the CW-DMAG has received weekly drought status reports since late summer 2007 and has met as a group at least monthly. CW-DMAG members include the area's public water suppliers and several large industrial users that withdraw water from the Basin, NC and SC agencies, the US Geological Survey, and Duke Energy. The CW-DMAG and the Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) are outcomes of Duke Energy's relicensing process for the Catawba-Wateree Hydro Project. The LIP will

become part of Duke Energy's New License for the Project to be issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

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