

CATAWBA-WATEREE DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

News Release

October 7, 2010

Media Contacts: See local water jurisdiction contacts below

Recent Rains not Enough to Keep Basin Out of Drought

The Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group (CW-DMAG) today announced that despite recent rainfall, late summer's dry and hot weather has put the Catawba-Wateree River Basin in a Stage 1 drought level of the Low Inflow Protocol (LIP). Stage 1 is the first of four drought stages outlined in the LIP and recommends voluntary water conservation by water users across the Basin.

In Stage 1, water users are encouraged to voluntarily reduce lawn and landscape irrigation as well as residential vehicle washing. Local water suppliers will provide additional guidance on voluntary reductions for their jurisdictions as appropriate.

"Recent rains were very beneficial, but not enough to restore the Basin's long-term streamflow and storage to normal conditions," said Ed Bruce, Duke Energy, CW-DMAG coordinator.

Two of the three LIP drought indicators (triggers) are in or below Stage 1: Water storage in the Basin's lakes has declined to 86 percent of Target Storage, and stream flows that feed the reservoirs are well below normal.

"Streams and lakes were not fully replenished by the recent rains," said Rock Hill Public Services Administrator Jimmy Bagley. "Citizens can help by continuing to use water wisely in their homes, yards, schools and businesses."

The CW-DMAG members have been monitoring conditions closely since the Basin entered a Stage 0 drought watch in early August. According to the process established by the LIP, members receive regular updates and meet at least monthly until conditions return to normal.

Drought and Weather Indicators

The CW-DMAG reviews 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 most of the basin in either abnormally dry or moderate drought conditions.

The [four-month average of area streamflows](#) is below 65 percent of the historical four-month average and is in a Stage 2 Condition.

The [reservoir storage index](#) is below Target Storage levels and is in Stage 1 conditions.

Rainfall: Year-to-date rainfall through September is about 95 percent of long-term average, with a majority of the rainfall occurring earlier in the year. The National Weather Service is predicting an equal chance of normal, below normal or above normal precipitation in the Basin for October with a below average chance for normal rainfall from Charlotte and south through the end of the year.

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 meets at least monthly when LIP triggers indicate Stage 0 or greater. 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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Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group

Contacts for Local Water Jurisdictions

Belmont, NC Chuck Flowers (Utility Director) 704-825-0512 cflowers@cityofbelmont.org	Longview, NC David Epley 828-322-3921 david.epley@mail.ci.longview.nc.us
Camden, SC Tom Couch 803-425-6045 tcouch@camdensc.org	Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority (SC) Michael (Mike) Hancock 803-438-2991 lugoffh20@aol.com
Catawba River Water Treatment Plant (SC) Mike Bailes 803-286-5949 Ext. 24 mbailes@comporium.net	Mooreville John Vest 704-799-4290 jvest@ci.mooreville.nc.us
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities Vic Simpson 704-391-5065 vsimpson@ci.charlotte.nc.us	Morganton, NC Joshua Harris 828-432-2516 jharris@ci.morganton.nc.us
Chester Metropolitan District (SC) William M. Medlin, Executive Director/CEO 803-385-5123 mmedlin@truvista.net	Mt Holly, NC Aletha Hart 704-992-5937 hart808@bellsouth.com
Duke Energy Erin Culbert 800-559-3853 erin.culbert@duke-energy.com	Rock Hill, SC Lyn Garris, Public Affairs Officer 803-329-7009 803-417-1081 Cell lgarris@ci.rock-hill.sc.us
Gastonia, NC Rachel Bagley, Director of Communications and Marketing 704-866-6749 RachelB@cityofgastonia.com	Statesville, NC Nancy Davis Public Affairs Director 704-878-3586 704-437-6669 (cell) Ndavis@statesvillenc.net
Granite Falls, NC Shuford Wise 828-396-7111 mshufordwise@embarqmail.com	Union County, NC Ed Goscicki, Public Works Director 704-296-5255 edward.goscicki@co.union.nc.us
Hickory, NC Mandy Pitts 828-261-2222 mpitts@ci.hickory.nc.us	Valdese, NC Jeff Morse 828-879-2116 JMorse@ci.valdese.nc.us
Lancaster County Water & Sewer District Mark Knight 803-416-5255 mknight@lcwasd.org	York County, SC David Harmon, Public Works Director 803-628-3200 david.harmon@yorkcountygov.com
Lenoir, NC Mack W. Edmisten 828-757-2175 mwedmisten@ci.lenoir.nc.us	David Hughes, Water and Sewer Supervisor 803-628-3211 david.hughes@yorkcountygov.com
Lincoln County, NC Burns Whittaker, Public Works Director 704-736-8497 bwhittaker@lincolncounty.org	