

C-W DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

CONFERENCE CALL

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

DRAFT CALL SUMMARY

Member Organizations Present:

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities
City of Belmont
City of Camden
City of Gastonia
City of Hickory
City of Lenoir
City of Morganton
City of Rock Hill
City of Statesville
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
INVISTA
Lincoln County
Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority
NCWRC
SCDHEC
Town of Granite Falls
Town of Mooresville
Town of Valdese
Union-Lancaster Catawba River Water Treatment Plant
USGS

Other Organizations Present:

HDR
Kearns & West, Inc.
University of South Carolina
York County

Introductions, Agenda Review, and Announcements

1. Ed Bruce opened the meeting with introductions and reviewed the agenda.

Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) Triggers, Duke Operations, and Meteorological Update

2. Bruce reviewed the LIP triggers, including an update of the Catawba-Wateree Storage Index (SI), stream flow, and groundwater gages. The lake levels are continuing to build to their summer levels and are above the target elevations. The early March rain produced a short-term rise in the SI. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor the basin is in a severe-to-moderate drought, thus continuing in a Stage 2 designation. Streamflows remain in Stage 2, but continue to show improvement. As of March 1, 2009, the groundwater trigger levels have been updated through Water Year 2008 and are being used. All groundwater levels have recovered to Stage 1 or better conditions.

Meteorology and System Operations Update

3. George Galleher provided an update on area meteorology conditions and on Duke's hydro operations. Galleher noted that the area is expected to experience significant rainfall over the next several days which could total as much as four inches in some areas. Long-term forecasts (April – June) are indicating below average probability for normal precipitation in the basin. The latest hurricane outlooks are indicating that named-storms are more likely to follow a Western Caribbean/Gulf of Mexico route, meaning less activity on the East Coast. Duke continues its work at the Bridgewater spillway at Lake James. Approximately, 2 to 2.5 feet of the spillway crest will be removed and then replaced. As a result, Lake James will be managed to a target elevation range of 94 to 95 feet.

Water Management Group Update

4. Jeff Lineberger reported that the Water Management Group (WMG) Board of Directors met on March 12 to review a number of topics and to develop the agenda for the April 14 WMG meeting. He reported that the GIS mapping project continues to move forward, and the lakeside smart irrigation project managed by NC State University had initiated a survey of lakeside landowners on all eleven lakes. The Board is also currently reviewing the 2008 financial statements due to the Members on April 1st. At its April 14 meeting, the Group anticipates selecting its logo and making a selection on a contractor to assist with its program management support. Lineberger noted that the Group has spent much of 2008 organizing and developing its approaches to operating and managing projects but is now transitioning to a project management organization. Lineberger encouraged all WMG Group Members to attend the April 14th meeting due to the number of decisions that will likely be made at that meeting and also at subsequent meetings.

2008 Water Use Reporting Review and Discussion

5. Bruce noted that HDR has prepared a compilation of all CW Basin 2008 water uses and has the data broken out by sub-basin in its Water Use Summary Report for Calendar Year 2008. The report also shows a comparison of actual water withdrawals compared to the water withdrawal predictions in the Water Supply Study that was completed during relicensing.

LIP Evaluation Committee Report

6. Kearns reviewed the activities of the LIP Evaluation Committee. At its last meeting on March 13, they evaluated trigger data and considered alternative triggers for streamflow, groundwater, and the drought monitor. The Committee is looking to provide two outputs – lessons learned during the recent drought and CW-DMAG operating protocol recommendations. The Committee suggested these for LIP recommendations:

- LIP accurately reflects hydrologic conditions.
- Public perceptions are consistent with hydrologic conditions.
- Stage don't change too quickly and don't dither
- Stages and Triggers reflect appropriate seasonal variability
- Storage is used conservatively.
- Storage itself is not a hydrologic condition; need storage and releases in combination.

The Committee is now evaluating how the following triggers would have worked during the 2007-2009 and 1998-2002 droughts.

- Four-month rolling average streamflow
- Spatially averaged drought monitor for drought monitor index
- Groundwater data used in an advisory capacity
- No change in current SI

Residential Use Responses

7. Ken Kearns reviewed the trends for per-meter residential use and Duke's hydro generation at Wateree (a marker for water releases) through February 2009. Water use has remained below average unrestricted use, and hydro generation at Wateree continues to be below normal long-term averages.

Consideration of Temporary Stage 2 Recommendations

8. Kearns noted that the water suppliers are now permitting two-day-a-week outdoor water use, and the system remains in Stage 2. He proposed for discussion that the CW-DMAG maintain these recommended use restrictions. After a brief discussion, the CW-DMAG agreed to the proposal and also concluded that there is no current need for a press release. The CW-DMAG will re-evaluate the need for a press release in a brief conference call on April 7th after the end-of-March LIP calculations are available.

Conclusion

9. Kearns summarized that the CW-DMAG will hold a brief conference call on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 10 a.m. to review the latest LIP triggers and determine the need for a press release.
10. Kearns suggested that the CW-DMAG meeting in May be held in person to review LIP triggers as of the end of April and to hear a more detailed report from the LIP Evaluation Committee. The May CW-DMAG meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 10 AM.
11. Bruce adjourned the meeting.