

CW DMAG Update - September 11, 2007

Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) Drought Indicators

The following is a brief summary of the September 11, 2007, CW-DMAG conference call:

1. Attending Organizations:

Organization

SCDNR

SCDHEC

USGS

City of Lenoir

City of Hickory

CMUD

Lincoln County

City of Gastonia

City of Rock Hill

Catawba Water Treatment Plant

Bowater

Invista

Licensee

2. Review of Drought Response Status

Ed Bruce reviewed the latest drought response status for Public Water Suppliers and noted that all but six eligible members of the CW-DMAG are on mandatory restrictions. Duke requested any assistance from CW-DMAG members in getting these six Public Water Suppliers to go to mandatory restrictions.

3. LIP Trigger Update

Ed Bruce briefly reviewed the Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) drought indicators as of September 7, 2007:

Storage Index (SI):	50.26%
Target Storage Index =	75.00%
Ratio =	67.01% (Supports Stage 2)

Trend Data:

SI on July 30, 2007 =	64.36%
SI on August 27, 2007 =	53.54%

SI on August 31, 2007 = 52.58%
SI on September 7, 2007 = 50.26%
Loss Rate since July 30, 2007 = 2.53% per week
Loss Rate since August 31, 2007 = 2.32% per week

Streamflow Indicator (six-month average versus historical six-month average):

Ratio = 53.3% (Supports Stage 3)
Increased one stage since August 31, 2007

US Drought Monitor (three-month average)

Three-month Numeric Average = +2.00 (Supports Stage 2)
No change from August 31, 2007

Groundwater Gages (September 7, 2007 or before):

USGS Langtree reading = 21.10 ft	August 31, 2007 = 20.85 ft
USGS Linville reading = 2.43 ft	August 31, 2007 = 2.41 ft
NCDWR Glen Alpine reading = 9.9 ft	May, 2007 = 8.56 ft

Ed Bruce noted that the Storage Indicator has declined further since Friday, September 7, 2007. Ed Bruce also noted that the Streamflow Indicator is based on a rolling six-month average compared to the six-month historical average for the same period and would likely remain low because of the six-month average computation. It was also noted that the project is losing between 2% and 2.5% per week of the total usable storage in the 11-lake system. That means the net storage loss on the 11-lake system is averaging between 5 and 6 Billion gallons per week.

4. Duke Operations Update

George Galleher provided a brief update on Duke's operations of the Catawba-Wateree Project. Within the limits of the existing equipment available, Duke is targeting 807 cfs release from the Wateree Development, 650 cfs from the Wylie Development and 101 cfs from the Bridgewater (Lake James) Development as discussed last week. These flows are daily average flows attained through pulsing of the existing units. The flow below Wylie approximates the Critical Flow designated for the river reach below Wylie when leakage is added.

Duke meteorology staff is predicting some rainfall in the basin over the next five days, but not amounts that would significantly alter the

drought conditions. Without significant rainfall, lake levels at Lake James and probably Lake Norman will continue to decline. Duke estimates that the natural evaporation loss is approximately 300 mgd.

5. Preparing for Stage 3

Ed Bruce estimated that if the storage continues to decline at the rate that it has recently, then the Catawba-Wateree Basin will be in a Stage 3 by the end of September. There was some discussion by the Public Water Suppliers that if the basin enters a Stage 3, then perhaps a total ban on all outdoor automated irrigation should be in place, since the basin would be one stage away from an emergency. There was general agreement that this would be a good initiative. Nick Stegall recommended that perhaps hand watering should still be allowed under that scenario. There will be more discussion of that issue at next week's conference call.

Ed Bruce also noted that the basin could be in these deeper stages for a long period of time because the LIP is set up to only allow stage recovery if the groundwater wells recover and those wells take a long time to recover.

6. Questions and Answer Discussions

- Duke clarified that the lake pump restriction for lake-side homeowners was restricted to sun-down to sun-up on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Duke will check into sending the restriction notice to homeowner associations.
- Hope Mizzell noted that South Carolina declared a severe level of drought for most of South Carolina.

7. Other Water Customers Request to be included on CW-DMAG e-mail Distribution List

Ed Bruce noted that some Public Water Suppliers that do not have an intake in the basin would like to be on the CW-DMAG e-mail distribution list. While Duke did not have an issue with that, Duke did want to solicit comments from other CW-DMAG members. There was no opposition to having these entities put on the list.

The next LIP update will be Friday, September 14, 2007, and the next conference call will be Tuesday, September 18, 2007, at 10:00 a.m.