

The following is a brief summary of the October 11, 2007 CW-DMAG meeting:

1. Attending Organizations:

Bowater
Catawba River WTP
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities
Chester Metropolitan District
City of Belmont, NC
City of Camden, SC
City of Charlotte, NC
City of Gastonia, NC
City of Hickory, NC
City of Lenoir, NC
City of Morganton, NC
City of Mount Holly, NC
City of Newton, NC
City of Rock Hill, SC
City of Statesville, NC
International Paper
Lincoln County, NC
Licensee-Duke Energy
Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority
NCDWR
SCDHEC
SCDNR
Town of Fort Mill, SC
Town of Granite Falls, NC
Town of Valdese, NC
USGS

2. LIP Trigger Update

Ed Bruce provided an update on the current Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) triggers of storage, stream flow, and the US Drought Monitor as of October 10, 2007.

Storage Index (SI)	40.27%
Target Storage Index (TSI)	73.06%
Ratio	55.12% (Supports Stage 3)
U.S. Drought Monitor	3.33 (Supports Stage 3)
Stream Flow Gages	43.9% (Supports Stage 3)

The area is in a Stage 3 drought since the Storage Index (SI) is below 57 percent but greater than 42 percent of the Target Storage Index (TSI), the US Drought Monitor is greater than or equal to 3, and the US Stream Gauges actual six-month readings are less than 55% of the historical readings for the same period.

Bruce reviewed rainfall charts and noted that rainfall this year is less than the rainfall in the previous drought. The Storage Index indicates how much accessible water is left in the system.

3. Meteorological and Operational Discussion

George Galleher provided meteorological and operational updates. The current rainfall for October is 0.36 inches, which is about 10 percent of the normal rainfall for this month. From October to December the area is historically dry and can usually expect 10.75 inches. However, forecasters are expecting below-average rainfall due to La Nina and a warmer-than-average winter.

Galleher reported that levels in Lakes James, Norman, Wylie, and Wateree are declining. He noted that the Wateree Hydro plant was operated recently at a higher flow rate to help supply customers with needed electricity during unseasonably warm October days in what is normally a cooler period of time and also while a number of base load plants were off line as part of planned maintenance outages. He noted that Duke has used storage in Wateree, but not storage upstream, to provide these Wateree releases. Improvements in rates of storage loss are expected because the cooler weather has reduced the amount of natural evaporation. During a typical August, 278 million gallons are evaporated; in a typical November, only 108 million gallons are evaporated.

4. Preparing for Low Inflow Protocol Condition Stage 4

The DMAG should next be discussing the following with a potential Stage 4 drought approaching.

- a. Demand side. The group should consider ways to reduce the demand from customers.
- b. Intakes. The group should determine which intakes are most at risk and ways to mitigate that risk.
- c. Contingency Measures.
- d. External Communications. The group should be sending a consistent message to the public.