

**Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group Meeting Summary
July 31, 2008**

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities
Lee S. Dukes Water Treatment Plant**

Member Organizations Present:

Abitibi-Bowater
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities
Chester Metropolitan District
City of Belmont
City of Camden
City of Gastonia
City of Hickory
City of Lenoir
City of Morganton
City of Newton
City of Rock Hill
Duke Energy
Invista
Lincoln County
NCDENR-DPPEA
NCDENR-PWSS
Town of Fort Mill
Town of Granite Falls
Town of Mooresville
Union-Lancaster Catawba River Water-
Treatment Plant
USGS
York County

Other Organizations Present:

Catawba Riverkeeper
NC Green Industry Council
HDR Engineering
Kearns & West
USC - Department of Geography

Introductions, Agenda Review, and Announcements

1. Ken Kearns opened the meeting with introductions and reviewed the agenda.

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

2. Bruce reviewed a presentation of the LIP triggers and included an update of the Catawba-Wateree Storage Index (SI) and groundwater gages. Despite recent rain, the SI is continuing to trend downward, and most of the rainfall that has occurred was in the lower basin, leaving the upper basin relatively dry. The basin's exceptional drought area designated by the U.S. Drought Monitor expanded since the previous week.
3. Bruce provided an update on area meteorology conditions and Duke's hydro operations. The basin had slightly more rainfall in July 2008 than July 2007. Evaporation tends to be much higher in August, September, and October compared to the winter months, resulting in a greater loss of storage. Duke continues to release only Critical Flows.

Consideration of Temporary Stage 3 Recommendations

4. Kearns reviewed the CW-DMAG's April 2008 decision to recommend allowing outdoor watering one day a week based on improving drought indicators at that time. He summarized that the SI is declining and will continue to fall if the basin does not receive significant additional rain. All of the other drought triggers are in Stage 3. Customers are continuing to conserve, and Duke is only releasing critical flows at its hydro plants. The Group decided to maintain the current restrictions, but will continue to review conditions frequently.

Review and Discussion of Proposed LIP Evaluation Approach

5. Bruce provided background on the creation and purpose of the LIP. It is required in the Catawba-Wateree Project Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA) that the LIP be reviewed at least every five years for potential improvements. In December 2007 and in April 2008, the CW-DMAG decided to review the LIP when the drought is over—meaning all of the drought triggers had returned to normal. However, the Group also decided to establish a review process. Bruce shared a draft LIP evaluations process and, after some discussion, asked for a member and an alternate from each geographical area of the basin assigned to the relicensing advisory groups (Foothills, Metro, Piedmont, Lower Catawba) to serve on a committee to finalize the process. The committee will be finalized at a later date, but the below people were nominated:
 - Foothills Representatives: Kevin Greer and Don Danford
 - Metro Representatives: Barry Gullet and Ed Cross
 - Piedmont Representative: Nick Stegall (to be confirmed) and Mike Bailes (to be confirmed)
 - Lower Catawba Representatives: Fred Castles and Tom Couch

Resource agency representatives from NC and SC will also be on the committee,

Discussion with NC Green Industry Council (GIC)

6. Maeneen Klein and Buddy Murrow provided an update on the CW-DMAG's partnership with the GIC. The GIC created print, radio, and television advertisements highlighting water conservation. At Klein's suggestion, Duke will assist in implementing the advertising campaign.

Water Consumption Committee Reports

7. Bill Yetman noted that water suppliers still need to provide data for their irrigation meters. He will send a reminder e-mail to the CW-DMAG.

Water Management Group (WVG) Update

8. Barry Gullet provided an update on the WVG's last meeting by conference call. The Group discussed directors' and officers' insurance and modifications at Duke's Allen Steam Station. The next WVG meeting will be August 12 at Lee S. Dukes Water Treatment Plant.

Drought Status Communications Update

9. Kearns reported he had drafted a charge for the committee, which the committee has reviewed. He will redraft the charge based on the comments.

Update on Water Use Guidelines

10. Kearns noted that he had modified the language in the guidelines to reflect that they are recommendations. He suggested that the Group determine the implications of and relationship to the new NC drought legislation before revisiting the guidelines.

Round table

11. Klein noted that, by chance, she learned about the Duke and UNC researchers working on the NC Water Allocation study and discussed the results with the researchers. She briefed them on the CW-DMAG, WVG, and LIP, which were reviewed favorably in their initial report. Information about the report and other efforts of the researchers can be found in a wiki set up by the researchers. Gullet noted that anyone can post or make changes to the articles, located at: http://soqweb.soq.unc.edu/Water/index.php/Drought_%282007-2008%29%2C_Lessons_Learned.
12. Kearns asked for a summary of the legislation passed in North Carolina. Greer noted that, because of the LIP and its implementation, members of the CW-DMAG are less affected because the legislation is primarily for those suppliers who do not have drought mitigation plans and are slow to enforce water use restrictions in a drought.

Conclusion

13. The CW-DMAG will have a conference call on Thursday, August 13 at 11 a.m. The next CW-DMAG meeting will be on Tuesday, August 26 at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities' Lee S. Dukes Water Treatment Plant.
14. Kearns adjourned the meeting.