

C-W DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

CONFERENCE CALL

Tuesday, April 07, 2009

CALL SUMMARY

Member Organizations Present:

Abitibi-Bowater
Catawba River Water Treatment Plant
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 Mount Holly
City of Rock Hill
Invista
Bessemer City
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Lincoln County
Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority
NCDENR
NCWRC
SCDHEC
Town of Granite Falls
Town of Long View
Town of Mooresville
Town of Valdese
USGS

Other Organizations Present:

Kearns & West, Inc.
HDR Engineering
Western Piedmont COG

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 streamflow indicator. Streamflows continue to be responsive to rainfall events over the last six months, and the streamflow indicator has now returned to Stage 1 and is likely to remain around that level for a while. In combination with the return of the other drought triggers to Stage 1 or better, all the triggers are in Stage 1 or better.

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 basin is expecting to receive 1-1/2 to 1-3/4 inches of rain over the period including next week. The forecasts for the April are for greater than average precipitation and, for May, less than average. The US Seasonal Drought Outlook suggests improving conditions. The hurricane outlook continues to indicate that named storms are more likely to follow a Western Caribbean/Gulf of Mexico route, leading to less activity on the East Coast. Duke continues its work at the Bridgewater spillway at Lake James. Lake James will be managed to a target elevation range of 94 to 95 feet during construction. For Duke's overall operations, moving to Stage 1 will mean increased minimum flow requirements and restoration of recreation flow releases. Bruce noted that there is a greater difference in minimum flows requirements in going from Stage 2 to 1 than from Stage 3 to 2; so in the long term this might make it more difficult than previously to keep storage levels up.

Transition to Stage 1

4. Ken Kearns asked for input from the water suppliers on how the forthcoming press release on the basin's shift to Stage 1 should characterize DMAG's recommendations to its members. He explained that the only change found in the LIP for water use restrictions is that they are voluntary instead of mandatory. A CW-DMAG release will be issued today.

Conclusion

5. Kearns noted that the next CW-DMAG meeting in-person and will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 10 AM, and reminded the water suppliers to send in their March residential use results.
6. Bruce adjourned the meeting.