

C-W DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

Tuesday, September 08, 2009

Member Organizations Present:

Catawba River Water Treatment Plant
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities
City of Morganton
City of Belmont
City of Gastonia
City of Hickory
City of Lenoir
City of Rock Hill
City of Statesville
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Chester Metropolitan District
International Paper
Lincoln County
Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority
NCDENR-DWR
SCDHEC
SCDNR
Town of Granite Falls
Town of Mooresville
Abitibi-Bowater
USGS

Other Organizations Present:

HDR
Kearns & West, Inc.
NCDENR-PWS
Town of Fort Mill
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 provided a LIP trigger update. Conditions have been fairly dry, with a steady decline in storage since June. Storage levels are below Target Storage Levels for this time of year. These conditions are similar to last year at this time, except for the tropical storm event that occurred one year ago and replenished storage levels. The streamflow gages' six-month average is at 91.5%. Based on the Drought Monitor and Storage Index drought triggers, the Catawba-Wateree Basin is in an LIP Stage 0 drought condition.
3. George Galleher provided an update on area meteorology conditions and on Duke's hydro operations. NOAA is forecasting an equal chance of below-or-above-average rainfall in September, and Duke's weather contractor is forecasting 10-30% below average precipitation in September and October. Lake James is holding at 96.2 feet. Most inflows into the reservoirs are declining.
4. Ken Kearns provided an update on residential water use responses, and August data was requested from all water suppliers. Total monthly water withdrawals are also being collected. Kearns has now received sufficient data on total withdrawals to conduct an analysis.
5. Kearns asked if a press release should be sent out to report on the drier conditions. He recommended against a release, given the time of year and the low likelihood of conditions worsening, and the group agreed. LIP requirements in Stage 0 were clarified. These require a monthly meeting or conference call requirement and 90-day forecasting, and it was concluded that DMAG is fulfilling these.

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