

## **Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group Call Summary**

**November 24, 2008**

**Conference Call**

### **Member Organizations Present:**

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

### **Other Organizations Present:**

City of Monroe  
Kearns & West, Inc.  
USC  
NCDENR Public Water Supply Section Town of Fort Mill  
Invista

### 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 LIP triggers which included an update of the Catawba-Wateree Storage Index (SI), stream flow and groundwater gages. The SI is above average for this time of year. The streamflow indicators show that the tributaries are lower than they were two years ago, and several are lower than a year ago, although the base flow improved somewhat as a result of Hurricane Fay. There has been a small increase in groundwater levels over the last few months.
3. George Galleher provided an update on area meteorology conditions and Duke's hydro operations. The Basin had slightly lower than predicted precipitation in November. Below average rainfall is predicted for the next few weeks. The basin still has a very small area in "extreme" drought, but most of the basin is in lower categories and Duke expects that these designations will remain through the spring. Duke continues to manage lake levels to remain slightly above Target levels.

### Update on Water Use Restriction Results through November 08

4. Ken Kearns shared the combined per-meter residential water use data collected from most of the area's large water suppliers through the end of November. The charts showed significantly above-average water use during the summer (2007) before water use restrictions were put into place, and then usage dropped to well below average once LIP Stages 2 and 3 were declared. Kearns concluded that, without restrictions, the water use would likely have remained above average because 2007's fall remained hot and dry. Water use is still below normal unrestricted use even after and number of jurisdictions returned to two-days-a-week watering on September 24. Kearns is continuing to work on expanding the analysis to include some other indicators of water use in the basin, including the reductions in flow from the hydro plants. Kearns showed several new charts indicating the flow reductions from Lake Wateree that have continued since they began in early in 2007 when the region entered LIP Stage 1.

### Consideration of Extending the September 24 Temporary Stage 3 Recommendations on Two-Days-a-Week Outdoor Water Uses

On September 24, 2008 the CW-DMAG agreed to recommend allowing two-days-a-week watering as a temporary window for fall planting and landscape restoration through November 30, 2008. However, the CW-DMAG noted that, between November 30 and spring, typical outdoor water use is minimal and two-days-per-week outdoor water use is not expected to negatively affect the storage. As a result the CW-DMAG recommended that, two-days-a-week outdoor water use continue. Continuation of the extension is dependent on drought indicators remaining stable or improving.

### Roundtable

5. Kearns provided a brief update on the LIP Evaluation Committee. The committee has met three times and will meet again in December to begin evaluating LIP triggers in more detail.
6. Barry Gullet reported that the Water Management Group (WMG) met on October 14. The USGS groundwater-well project is going very well, but the mapping initiative

project is requiring further attention. A WMG Board meeting was held just prior to this to prepare for the December 9 meeting. Gullet noted that the Town of Long View and the City of Statesville may join the WMG in January 2009.

Conclusion

7. The next CW-DMAG meeting will also be a conference call on Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 10 AM Eastern Time.
8. Bruce adjourned the meeting.