

**Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group Meeting Summary
August 26, 2008**

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities
Environmental Services Building**

Member Organizations Present:

Abitibi-Bowater
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities
City of Belmont
City of Camden
City of Gastonia
City of Statesville
City of Hickory
City of Lenoir
City of Morganton
City of Newton
City of Rock Hill
Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority
Duke Energy
International Paper
Lincoln County
NCDENR-DPPEA
NCDENR-PWSS
NCDWR
SCDHEC
SCDNR
Town of Fort Mill
Town of Granite Falls
Town of Mooresville
Chester Metropolitan District
Union-Lancaster Catawba River Water-
Treatment Plant

Other Organizations Present:

NC Green Industry Council
HDR Engineering
Hydropoint
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. Ed Bruce reviewed a presentation of the LIP triggers and included an update of the Catawba-Wateree Storage Index (SI), stream flow and groundwater gages. There has been a decline in the SI down to 65%, but the data does not reflect the rainfall that occurred this week. The streamflow indicator shows that the tributaries are lower than they were two years ago and two of the four gages are lower than a year ago. Duke does not anticipate the current rainfall to show up significantly in the groundwater gages.
3. George Galleher provided an update on area meteorology conditions and Duke's hydro operations. The basin has had some rainfall in the last 72 hours. Some parts of the basin received five to eight inches, but the forecast predicts the following week to be dry. With this rain, Duke predicts lakes will increase and stabilize for a while, but then begin to decline again if there is no significant additional rainfall. The basin is still in an exceptional to extreme drought, and Duke expects those designations will remain until the fall or the end of the year.

Update on Water Use Restriction Results through July 08

4. Kearns shared the combined per-meter residential water use data collected from most of the area's large water suppliers through the end of July. The charts showed significantly above-average water use during the summer (2007) before water use restrictions were put into place, and then usage dropping to well below average once the LIP Stage 2 and 3 were declared. Kearns concluded that, without restrictions, the water use would likely have remained above average because 2007's fall period remained hot and dry. While water use is still below average during a time that higher than average use is expected, consumption is now closer to average use than it has been over the last several months. Water suppliers were asked to provide their August per-meter residential water use numbers once it is available. Kearns will also look at other available data and talk individually with some member to investigate expanding the analysis beyond the residential sectors.

Water Request for Fall 2008 Planting Season and Consideration of Temporary Stage 3 Recommendations

5. Maeneen Klein, DMAG's liaison to the NC Green Industry Council (GIC), described a request by the GIC to allow watering more than once a week for new landscape projects during the fall planting season. The DMAG concluded that the drought conditions remain serious and do not warrant more than one-day-a week water at this time. The DMAG discussed the possibility of providing variances to allow additional watering for only those with new landscape projects, but concluded it would be impractical to implement. The Group decided to recommend continuing maintain the current water use restrictions, but will continue to review conditions frequently.

Roundtable

6. Lauren Kirkpatrick explained that water suppliers have provided the Water Consumption Committee with irrigation meter data. That committee is analyzing the information and will share the results at a later meeting.

7. Jeff Lineberger provided an update on the Water Management Group meeting. Insurance was discussed and is now in place. The WMG will discuss and finalize its five-year rolling projects list before the end of the year. All current projects are on schedule for this year, and a new groundwater monitoring well is being installed in the Lake Wateree area.
8. Fred Castles noted that Chester Metropolitan District has received criticism for allowing emergency vehicle washing. DMAG members indicated that they also allow emergency vehicle washing as necessary.

Conclusion

9. The next CW-DMAG meeting will be on Wednesday, September 24 at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities' Lee S. Dukes Water Treatment Plant.
10. Kearns adjourned the meeting.