
**AUGUSTA COUNTY SERVICE AUTHORITY
OPERATING PROCEDURES AND POLICY MANUAL**

Approved By: Board of Directors
Effective Date: March 9, 2015

Emergency Management
Policy No. 8.1
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Water Shortage

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to provide for the declaration of official phases of water supply shortages and the implementation of voluntary and mandatory water conservation measures throughout the service areas of the Authority in the event a shortage is declared. Water systems in Augusta County are permitted and operated as several separate systems. Limited interconnection exists. This policy may be applied to all systems or to individual systems as required by circumstances at the time of the declaration.

DECLARATION OF A DROUGHT WATCH, WARNING, OR EMERGENCY

Whenever the Authority finds that raw water or finished water supplies are below the level necessary to meet normal needs and that shortages exist, it shall be empowered to declare either a stage of Drought Watch, Warning, or Emergency exists depending on the guidelines as set forth in Augusta County Code Section 24.13.F. Simultaneously the Executive Director will request the Augusta County Board of Supervisors to declare the same stage as applicable.

SHORTAGE WATER RATES

Following the declaration of a Water Shortage Emergency, the Authority shall have the right to adopt shortage water rates designed to conserve water supplies. Such rates may provide for, but will not be limited to, (a) higher charges per unit for increasing usage (increasing block rates); (b) uniform charges for water usage per unit of use (uniform unit rate); (c) extra charges for use in excess of a specified level (excess demand surcharge); (d) discounts for conserving water beyond specified levels; or (e) rates to establish and enforce rationing by applying a penalty for the volume of water consumed above allocated consumption level.

PRIVATE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS (NON-POTABLE)

The Authority recognizes that there exist many private non-potable water systems in Augusta County expressly for irrigation. Where such a system is in use during any water shortage condition, the owner is requested to post signs stating that a private non-potable system is used for irrigation.

ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement shall be as described in Augusta County Code, Section 24.13H.

SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Policy is declared unconstitutional, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the constitutionality of the remainder of the Policy and its applicability to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Excerpt from Augusta County Code 24

§ 24-13. Drought Management.

A. This Article shall apply to all Augusta County residents and businesses which are served by the public water system.

B. The Board of Supervisors has adopted by resolution the Upper Shenandoah River Basin Drought Preparedness and Response Plan.

C. The indicators used to indicate drought severity shall be defined in the Upper Shenandoah River Basin Drought Preparedness and Response Plan Drought Response Plan.

D. The drought stages shall be Drought Watch, Drought Warning, and Drought Emergency, as determined by the Board, pursuant to the Upper Shenandoah River Basin Drought Preparedness and Response Plan and State Water Control Board regulation 9 VAC 25-120.

E. The County may declare a drought stage in the absence of a declaration by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The County must declare a drought stage upon declaration by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Upon notification to the Board that a drought stage exists, as defined in Section D of this Ordinance, the Board may issue a declaration of a drought stage.

F. Upon declaration by the Board of a Drought Watch or Drought Warning, voluntary conservation measures will be requested of residents and businesses as set forth in the Upper Shenandoah River Basin Drought Preparedness and Response Plan Drought Response Plan (table A and B below). Upon declaration of a Drought Emergency, mandatory restrictions shall apply as set forth in the Plan (table C below).

Table A. Guidelines for Drought Response and Mitigation during a Drought Watch Stage

DROUGHT STAGE		ACTIONS	
Drought Watch	Communities/Localities Need to:	Individuals Need to:	Commercial Entities Need to:
<i>Goal of drought actions in this stage are to reduce use by up to 5%.</i>	Implement Voluntary Conservation Measures Review and/or update Regional Drought Plan Communicate conditions, increase outreach and provide conservation tips. Increase water use efficiency and/or promote use reclaimed water for public facility landscaping. Consider developing increased conservation rate charges or surcharges to respond to drought conditions.	Conduct home water audits and leak detection. Fix leaking faucets and replace faulty fixtures. Implement Voluntary Conservation Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert high water using plumbing to low-flow fixtures. • Water at night or in the early morning to avoid the hottest part of the day. • Make sure sprinklers are working properly to reduce overspray. • Plant native or drought tolerant plants. • Use a bucket when washing cars or go to a commercial car wash. • Utilize water harvesting strategies. • Reuse water as much as possible such as reusing dishwater and rinse water for watering indoor and outdoor plants, where allowed by law. 	Implement voluntary water reduction and follow conservation plan. Discontinue use of decorative fountains. Require commercial facilities with monthly demand exceeding a threshold limit to conduct a self-audit.

Table B. Guidelines for Drought Response and Mitigation during a Drought Warning

DROUGHT STAGE		ACTIONS	
Drought Warning	Communities/Localities Need to:	Individuals Need to:	Commercial Entities Need to:
<p><i>Goal of drought actions in this stage are to reduce use by up to 5% - 10%.</i></p>	<p>Continue implementation of Voluntary Conservation Measures</p> <p>Begin the reduction or elimination of non-essential uses to reduce water usage by 5 to 10%</p> <p>Communicate drought level and conditions to public.</p> <p>Increase education on conservation followed by voluntary reductions for communities.</p> <p>Consider implementing a schedule for public lawn watering.</p> <p>Implement increased conservation rate changes or surcharges, as determined by locality.</p>	<p>Continue implementation of Voluntary Conservation Measures and follow the items below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce lawn watering to no more than two times per week between the hours of 9 p.m. and 10 a.m. • Reduce vegetable garden watering and water between the hours of 9 p.m. and 10 a.m. • Avoid sprinkler use. Use soil-soakers or drip irrigation. • Do not plant new landscaping or grass. 	<p>Implement water conservation plans.</p> <p>Implement interior retrofit for all high water use faucets and materials.</p> <p>Restrict washing of sidewalks, driveways, parking lots or any other paved surface except in the case of meeting health and safety standards.</p> <p>Prohibit operations of fountains at commercial sites.</p>

Table C. Guidelines for Drought Response and Mitigation during a Drought Emergency

DROUGHT STAGE		ACTIONS	
Drought Emergency	Communities/ Localities Need to:	Individuals Need to:	Commercial Entities Need to:
<p><i>Goal of drought actions in this stage are to reduce use by up to 10% - 15%.</i></p>	<p>Implement mandatory non-essential water use restrictions to reduce water usage by 10-15%</p> <p>Continue aforementioned conservation measures from watch and warning stages.</p> <p>Communicate conditions, increase outreach and promote conservation tips.</p> <p>Consider the adoption and enforcement of emergency ordinances as necessary to protect public welfare, health, and safety.</p>	<p>Implement mandatory non-essential water use restrictions including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No unrestricted lawn irrigation. • No washing of paved areas with any pressurized water source except in the case of meeting health and safety standards. • No washing of autos, trucks, types of mobile equipment except at facilities with wash water re-circulating systems. • No filling or topping off of outdoor swimming pools <p>Continue aforementioned conservation measures from watch and warning stages. Where allowable by law, reuse water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reuse dishwater for plants. • Capture shower water in buckets for watering plants. 	<p>Implement mandatory non-essential water use restrictions</p> <p>Voluntarily reduce water consumption by at least 10%. This reduction may result from the elimination of other non-essential water uses, application of water conservation practices, or reduction in essential water uses.</p> <p>Follow conservation measures for 'individuals' where appropriate.</p> <p>Discontinue the service of water to the restaurant or other food service establishment customers unless specifically requested by customer.</p>

The above restrictions in tables A, B, and C, or any one of them, shall become effective upon their being printed in any newspaper of general circulation in the county, or broadcast upon any radio or television station serving the county. As the water supply system in Augusta County is permitted and operated as several separate systems, the above restrictions may be applied to all systems or to individual systems as required by circumstances at the time of the declaration.

G. Waiver of Restrictions. Upon prior written request by an individual, business, or other water user, the Board, or its designee, may permit less than full compliance with any drought restrictions if good cause can be shown, including evidence that the applicant is affected in a substantial manner not common to other businesses or persons generally. No waiver shall be granted by the Board or its designee unless the Board or its designee determines that the public health, safety, and welfare will not be adversely affected by the waiver. All waivers granted by the Board or its designee shall be reported at the Board's next regular or special meeting.

H. Any person violating any provision of this section or any order of the County Administrator pursuant to the authority granted hereunder shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor. In addition, the ACSA is hereby authorized to terminate the water service, for the duration of the emergency, to any person convicted of such violation.

I. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the County Administrator or the Executive Director of the ACSA from rescinding any orders issued hereunder when the conditions creating the need for such orders have abated.

Excerpt from Upper Shenandoah River Basin Water Supply Plan

Drought Watch	Drought Warning	Drought Emergency
Indicators	Indicators	Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groundwater wells show a 5% decrease in well levels. - Reservoir level is less than 1,869' msl. - Evaluate delivery capacity, weekly WTP output, and weekly demand volume. - Reference state drought website, PDSI, streamflow, precipitation, groundwater. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groundwater wells show a 10% decrease in well levels. - Reservoir level is less than 1,869' msl. - Evaluate delivery capacity, weekly WTP output, and weekly demand volume. - Reference state drought website, PDSI, streamflow, precipitation, groundwater. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groundwater wells show a 15% decrease in well levels. - Reservoir level is less than 1,868,14' msl. - Evaluate delivery capacity, weekly WTP output, and weekly demand volume. - Reference state drought website, PDSI, streamflow, precipitation, groundwater.