

STATE OF DELAWARE



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT DOVER

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER SIXTY-ONE

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES, AND ALL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL UNITS OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

RE: DECLARATION OF DROUGHT WARNING; EXTENDING VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES; AND OTHER RELATED ACTION

WHEREAS, Delaware and the region has experienced an extended period of below normal precipitation and stream flow;

WHEREAS, extremely warm weather in recent weeks has also increased the demand for water;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recently declared a drought emergency and imposed measures that will reduce water supplies for Delaware;

WHEREAS, the current drought conditions experienced in Delaware are adversely affecting fresh water supplies and have created a condition of relative water scarcity which will likely result in conflicts among competing water users;

WHEREAS, the increased demand and diminishing water supply may lead to a water shortage in the State of Delaware thereby necessitating a drought warning and aggressive conservation measures;

WHEREAS, such measures are essential to avoid or mitigate the adverse impact of a drought;

WHEREAS, any mandatory directive to reduce water use during drought conditions will likely have a substantial impact on the State's environment and economy, thereby affecting a wide range of water users and interests;

WHEREAS, any directive must also address water quality standards and instream water needs sufficient to protect fish and wildlife;

WHEREAS, a high degree of cooperation among the various water users of Delaware will be necessary during a drought and will require input from persons representing and/or regulating these interests; and

WHEREAS, the State's Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan establishes a phased approach for implementing drought contingency measures.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas R. Carper, by the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, pursuant to 20 Del. C. § 3116 (a) (5), do hereby proclaim as follows:

1. This Executive Order shall constitute a drought warning for the State of Delaware with a specific goal for northern New Castle County (north of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal) of achieving a 15 percent reduction in water use.

2. State facilities shall impose a ban on all non-essential use of water as more fully set forth in Paragraph 3 of this Order below. Each agency shall also ensure that it continues to implement best management practices for agency water use as required by previous Executive Orders.

3. All citizens are urged to voluntarily restrict the non-essential use of water including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) The use of fresh water for non-agricultural irrigation and watering of lawns and outdoor gardens, landscaped areas, athletic fields, trees, shrubs, and outdoor plants by the use of hand-held containers or hand-held low-pressure perforated hoses whether used in attendance or controlled by an automatic timer; and by watering only between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m., unless otherwise requested by the water purveyor;

(b) The use of freshwater for watering golf courses, trees, greens and fairways by reducing water to the minimum amount necessary for survival and by only watering such areas between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. As an exception to the above hourly restriction, syringing of heat sensitive grasses during daytime stress periods, not to exceed 70 percent of the prevailing application rates, is permissible;

(c) The use of water for washing paved surfaces such as streets, roads, sidewalks, driveways, garages, parking areas, tennis courts, and patios;

(d) The use of water for ornamental purposes including fountains, artificial waterfalls, and reflecting pools;

(e) The use of water for non-commercial washing of automobiles, trucks, and other motor vehicles and trailers, by using hand-held buckets and hand-held hoses with manual flow control nozzles;

(f) The use of water from a fire hydrant for any purpose except for fire fighting;

(g) The use of water for flushing sewers and hydrants except as deemed necessary in the interest of public health and safety;

(h) The use of water in restaurants, clubs, and eating places by serving water only at the request of a customer; and

(i) Taking other measures to save water where possible, including repairing leaky water fixtures, flushing toilets only when necessary, minimizing splashing from pools, avoiding evaporation by covering pools when not in use, and installing shower flow restrictors, toilet tank dams, and faucet aerators.

4. Delaware water suppliers are requested to consider the adoption of such other water conservation measures as may be practicable.

5. Major industrial users in New Castle County north of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal that are self supplied and that are water customers of municipalities or private utilities, should update their water contingency plans and prepare to implement such plans in the event a drought emergency is declared. These facilities are also urged to implement any and all water conservation measures practicable in order to achieve a 15 percent reduction in water use.

6. The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) shall immediately implement the drought warning directives set forth in the Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan.

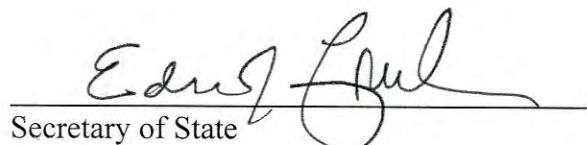
7. The Drought Advisory Committee shall consult with municipalities and other relevant agencies and organizations, both public and private, in carrying out the above-described activities.



Approved this 23 day of July, 1999.


Governor

Attest:


Secretary of State