



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton
Secretary

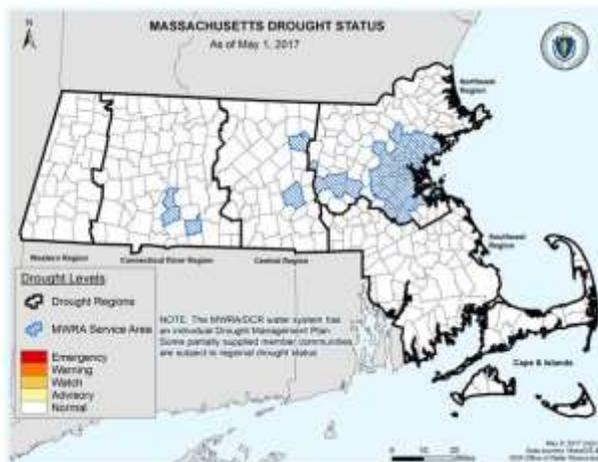
Martin Suuberg
Commissioner

May 15, 2017

To: All registered or permitted Public Water Suppliers and all other users permitted under the Water Management Act

Re: Outdoor Water Use Restrictions and Drought Status Update

On May 9, 2017 the Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force met to assess hydrologic conditions in the Commonwealth. Above normal rainfall in March, April and thus far in May has resulted in all hydrologic indices returning to normal conditions across the state. Therefore, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Matthew Beaton declared on May 11 the following drought levels throughout the Commonwealth: Normal Condition levels for the Connecticut River Valley, Central, Northeast, Southeast Regions as well as the Cape and Islands; down from a Drought Advisory in the month of April, and unchanged for the Western Region.



This map shows Massachusetts' drought status by region as of May 1, 2017. The latest drought status update is published on the Web at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/water-res-protection/water-data-tracking/drought-status.html>.

To confirm which drought region your town or city is in, go to the above website and in the "Drought Maps" section click on the link to "List of Massachusetts Towns by Drought Region."

Going Forward

State agencies will continue to closely monitor and assess conditions across the state, coordinate the dissemination of information to the public, and help state, federal and local agencies prepare additional responses that may be needed in the future.

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Director of Diversity/Civil Rights at 617-292-5751.

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370

MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

Printed on Recycled Paper

MassDEP encourages all suppliers to continue with their routine pipe flushing program this spring. Suppliers that delayed or cancelled last fall's pipe flushing in order to conserve water should return to their normal flushing schedule.

Although the Drought Advisory is now lifted in all six drought regions, MassDEP will continue to offer technical assistance to public water suppliers and communities to help them manage their water resources. As we move into the peak water use months, MassDEP encourages water suppliers to remind customers to think carefully about what they plant and water plants only early in the morning or late in the evening to minimize evaporation. Please also remind customers to reduce indoor water use, address leaks as soon as possible, and for larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and other potential water conservation. Reducing water use will help sustain your water supplies, ensuring that essential human needs such as drinking water and fire protection are met, and will help our aquatic habitats recover from the drought.

Notifying MassDEP About Outdoor Water Use Restrictions – May 1st through September 30th

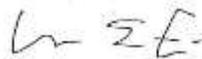
The **Mandatory Outdoor Water Use Restrictions** included in many Water Management permits went into effect on May 1st. All WMA permit holders should review any restrictions and triggers included in their permit. The MassDEP-Approved residential gallons per capita per day (RGPCD) numbers for 2016 can be found at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/watersheds/performance-standards-for-public-water-supplies.html>. Public water supply permits reference these approved RGPCD numbers by impacting the number of days per week that watering is allowed in your community. Your permit also outlines how to access the USGS data for the streamflow gage assigned to your community.

All public water suppliers are required to notify MassDEP within 14 days whenever mandatory outdoor water use restrictions are put in place. We request that you also notify us of any voluntary outdoor water use restrictions in your community. Please notify us by completing the Notification of Water Use Restrictions form, which can be downloaded from our Web site at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/approvals/year-thru-alpha/m-thru-s/restrict.pdf>. Please send the form to MassDEP either by email to jen.durso@state.ma.us, or by USMail to MassDEP, One Winter Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02108 Attn: Water Management Act Program.

Starting in May each year MassDEP posts a map and list of communities that have imposed outdoor water use restrictions at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/watersheds/municipal-water-use-restrictions.html>. The maps are periodically updated throughout the summer.

If you have any questions about the Outdoor Water Use requirements in your permit or need additional information, please contact Jen D'Urso at jen.durso@state.ma.us or (617-654-6591) or Duane Levangie at duane.levangie@state.ma.us or (617-292-5706).

Very truly yours,



Douglas E. Fine
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Water Resources

Cc: Thomas Mahin, Drinking Water Chief, DEP NERO (978-694-3226)
Robert Bostwick, Drinking Water Chief, DEP CERO (508-849-4036)
Richard Rondeau, Drinking Water Chief, DEP SERO (508-946-2816)
Deirdre Doherty, Drinking Water Chief, DEP WERO (413-755-2148)
Rebecca Weidman, Director, BRP-DWM, DEP Boston
Jen Pedersen, MWWA
Julia Blatt, Mass Rivers Alliance