Drought Task Force Meeting
August 8, 2022

MassDEP-Water Management Program Update
Most WMA Permits require reductions in nonessential water uses when one or more of the following are triggered from 5/1 - 9/30:

- Specific streamflow triggers generally include:
  - June ABF is the May-June trigger
  - August ABF is the July –September trigger

- Groundwater elevations on Cape, Islands and parts of Southeastern MA
  - Triggers are the period of record monthly 25th percentile depth to water level values, as determined and published by the USGS.

- Drought Declaration or 7-Day Low Flow
• 54 USGS Gages are tracked
  • On May 3rd – 4 gages had been below the May/June trigger for 3 consecutive days
  • On June 6th – 49 gages had been below the May/June trigger for 3 consecutive days
  • On July 5th – 53 gages had been below the July/August/September trigger for 3 consecutive days
  • On August 1, 49 gages had been below the July/August/September trigger for 3 consecutive days

• 6 USGS Monitoring Wells
  • On May 3rd - 1 gage had met or been below the trigger values for 60 consecutive days
  • On June 6th – 1 gage had met or been below the trigger values for 60 consecutive days
  • On July 5th – 1 gage had met or been below the trigger values for 60 consecutive days
  • On August 1st – 1 gage had met or been below the trigger values for 60 consecutive days
Drought Declarations

- May 16th
  - Level 1 - Mild Drought in the Southeast and Islands Drought Regions
- June 15th
  - Level 1 - Mild Drought in the Connecticut, Central and Islands Drought Regions, and
  - Level 2 – Significant Drought in the Central and Northeast Drought Regions
- July 18th
  - Level 1 - Mild Drought - Western and Islands Drought Regions, and
  - Level 2 - Significant Drought - Northeast, Southeast, Connecticut River Valley, and Central Regions
- July 21st
  - Level 1 – Mild Drought in the Western, Cape Cod and Islands Regions;
  - Level 2 – Significant Drought in the Connecticut River Valley and Southeast Regions; and
  - Level 3 - Critical Drought in the Northeast and Central Regions.

7 Day Low Flow

- June 6th
  - 0 gages had hit the 7-day low flow
- July 25th
  - 14 gages had hit the 7-day low flow
- August 1st
  - 20 gages had hit the 7-day low flow
Restriction Numbers

- 5/12 we had:
  - 2 Voluntary restrictions
  - 35 Mandatory restrictions of 3 days or more
  - 28 Mandatory restrictions of 2 days or less

- 6/2 we had:
  - 5 Voluntary restrictions
  - 43 Mandatory restrictions of 3 days or more
  - 40 Mandatory restrictions of 2 days or less

- 7/5 we had:
  - 6 Voluntary restrictions
  - 50 Mandatory restrictions of 3 days or more
  - 58 Mandatory restrictions of 2 days or less

- 8/1 we had:
  - 10 Voluntary restrictions
  - 45 Mandatory restrictions of 3 days or more
  - 91 Mandatory restrictions of 2 days or less
The Maps

CURRENT MUNICIPAL WATER USE RESTRICTIONS
Non-Essential Outdoor Water Use Restrictions
as of July 6, 2022

RESTRICTION LEVEL BY TOWN

- Water Supply Emergency Declared
- Mandatory Restriction - 1 Day or Less of Watering Allowed per Week
- Mandatory Restriction - 2 Days or More of Watering Allowed per Week
- Very Small or No Municipal Water Supply
- Public Water Supply Service Territories
- Areas with MWRA Water Service

The Municipal Water Use Restrictions List specifies which Public Water Suppliers are instituting restrictions.
The List can be found at https://mass.gov/media/1405541/

SOURCES:
MassDEP Bureau of Water Resources, Water Management Program; MassDEP GIS Program; MassGIS.
Restriciton Level data provided by municipal Public Water Suppliers or by MassDEP Internet search.
For more information contact MassDEP Water Management Program at 617-556-5700.
NOTES: Sub-municipal service areas are stippled.

CURRENT MUNICIPAL WATER USE RESTRICTIONS
Non-Essential Outdoor Water Use Restrictions
as of August 1, 2022

RESTRICTION LEVEL BY TOWN

- Water Supply Emergency Declared
- Mandatory Restriction - 1 Day or Less of Watering Allowed per Week
- Mandatory Restriction - 2 Days or More of Watering Allowed per Week
- Very Small or No Municipal Water Supply
- Public Water Supply Service Territories
- Areas with MWRA Water Service

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