

Cover Letter: Seasonal Demand Management Plan for Golf Courses

October 1, 2018

RE: Seasonal Demand Management Plan for Permitted Golf Courses

Dear Golf Course Manager:

Consistent with good water conservation practices and to minimize environmental impacts, permitted golf courses are required to implement a Seasonal Demand Management Plan (SDMP) as part of any new, amended or renewed Water Management Permit.

The SDMP requires:

- implementation of water conservation Best Management Practices throughout the season; and
- reductions in irrigation during dry periods from May 1st through September 30th when a Drought Advisory or greater (i.e., Watch, Warning or Emergency) is declared by the Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force (MDMTF), or when a groundwater or streamflow trigger described in the permit is reached.

To assist golf course managers, MassDEP has developed the SDMP Form (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/seasonal-demand-management-plan-for-water-management-golf-courses>) to outline the requirements of the SDMP, assess your implementation of a list of Golf Course Best Management Practices, and evaluate your ability to implement a SDMP.

Of particular importance in developing your SDMP and in evaluating its effect, is the implementation of water use reductions during dry periods. MassDEP considers irrigation of tees and greens to be an essential water use for golf courses even during dry periods, but the irrigation of fairways and roughs to be less so as conditions worsen. Your plan should describe with sufficient detail how you will implement increasing reductions in irrigation of fairways and roughs, and cease irrigation of landscaping and ornamentals, as drought conditions worsen.

Section C of the SDMP provides three options for addressing water use reductions. Two options are in table format, and the third option is an open-ended alternative approach. The Acres Table requires that you identify the number of acres you irrigate for tees and greens, fairways, roughs, landscaping and ornamentals, and prescribes a percent reduction per unit area as drought conditions worsen. The Time Table requires that you identify the time in a full irrigation cycle and prescribes a percent reduction in the time of each cycle as drought conditions worsen. Either complete one of these two tables, or describe in detail your alternative approach by which you will reduce irrigation during a drought.

The completed form may serve as your SDMP, pending MassDEP review and approval. MassDEP will then condition your permit to require its implementation whenever a Drought Advisory or greater is declared for the Drought Region in which your course is located, or when the environmental trigger described in your permit is reached.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Duane LeVangie at 617-292-5706.