

August 4, 2023

Dear water suppliers in the Mississippi Headwaters watershed,

This is a notification that due to prolonged dry weather that has resulted in expansion of severe drought, the Mississippi Headwaters watershed is moving to the *Drought Warning Response Phase* as described in the [Minnesota Statewide Drought Plan](#).

Water Supplier Actions Needed

The [State Drought Plan](#) specifies actions that water suppliers must implement once the state is elevated to *Drought Warning Response Phase*.

1. **Water Suppliers of a Population over 1,000** - Public water suppliers implement appropriate water use restrictions contained in their Water Supply Plan.
 - a. Your plan can be found in your MPARS account, under the Attachments tab.
 - b. Begin implementing your Water Supply demand reduction measures in Plan Part 2 (Table 22). These actions can be supported by measures that are identified in the Water Supply Plan, Part 3 Water Conservation.
2. **All Water Suppliers** - Public water suppliers will implement water use reduction actions with a goal of reducing water use to 50% above January levels.
 - a. For example: A city uses 4 million gallons of water in January, and normally uses 6.8 million in August. During the *Drought Warning* they should only use 6 million gallons in August.
 - b. Communicate to your community the importance of implementing water conservation measures. Websites with water conservation messages: DNR [Water Conservation webpage](#) and <https://www.ready.gov/drought>

Significant demand reduction is achievable by restricting or banning non-essential outdoor water use, especially lawn irrigation, power washing buildings, car washing and swimming pool filling. Encourage customers to fix leaks, install water saving devices and water-efficient appliances. Have conversations with your biggest water users and ask them how they might reduce water use, especially during peak times.

Use a variety of communication methods: Large exterior signs around the community, mailing/emailing all customers, radio station announcements, Facebook posts or other social media, and news release to any local paper. Explain the critical situation and that you need everyone's help. Ask customers to conserve water as much as possible.

Other Suggestions:

- During times of severe drought, monitor your water levels closely. Keep in mind that water quality may be impacted by increased concentrations of contaminants.
- Please alert your local [DNR hydrologists](#) to any water supply concerns or issues during the summer.
- [Sign up](#) to receive GovDelivery updates about drought in Minnesota, drought preparations and response, and important ways to conserve water.

Best regards,

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