

The Haralson County Water Authority implemented **Drought Level Response III** and filed appropriate requests to the State EPD. The already low levels suddenly dropped to an unprecedented amount in the river. What this means is virtually no outdoor watering will be permitted except for irrigation of personal food plots between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. until such time that the Tallapoosa River returns to normal.

The following will not be permitted:

- (a) General Outdoor watering for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants will not be permitted which includes automated sprinkler systems; both residential and commercial.
- (b) Recognizing most plants, shrubs, etc., are on the end of their growing season thereby hand watering with a hose will not be permitted.
- (c) Fund raising car washes will not be permitted.

The Authority needs to reduce the amount of use by individual customers or stand the chance of running out of water. Everyone can help by doing many small things in the home. The following can make an immediate difference: don't run the water while brushing your teeth, fill the sink with a minimum amount of water while shaving, don't run the water continuously, put a pitcher in the refrigerator and don't run the tap until it gets cold, use left over ice cubes to water house plants, if you have an older style commode, fill a half gallon plastic milk carton with water in place it in the tank of the commode, use an egg timer to monitor your shower time, don't exceed 4-5 minutes maximum, check your commode for leaks; place food coloring in the tank and wait thirty minutes, if it appears in the bowl the flapper is leaking. Or, if you have other potential leaks and need assistance call your water provider.

The Authority's goal for daily distribution from the water treatment plant would be to reduce consumption from 2.7 million gallons per day down to 1.8 or 2.0 million gallons per day.

# HARALSON COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

4277 GA Highway 120  
P.O. Box 429  
Buchanan, Georgia 30113  
(770) 646-6633

October 12, 2016

## MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable H. Allen Poole, Chairman, Haralson County Board of Commissioners  
City of Bremen, Honorable Mayor Sharon Sewell  
City of Buchanan, Honorable Mayor Johnny Pope  
City of Tallapoosa, Honorable Mayor Pete Bridges  
City of Waco, Honorable Mayor Travis Prichard

Info: Honorable Eddie Mixon, Sheriff, Haralson County  
Haralson County Fire Chief, Brian Walker  
Haralson County Marshall, John Entrekin

Subject: Change to Drought Level Response III

From: Bob Downey, Chairman Haralson County Water Authority

RE: (a) Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division  
Letter Dated September 9, 2016  
(b) Haralson County Water Authority Letter Dated October 12, 2016

Reference (a) placed all of Northern Georgia on Drought Level Response I on September 9, 2016. Reference (b) was sent this morning to the GA DNR, EPD placing Haralson County on Drought Response Level III. These increased restrictions are needed to make our best attempt to maintain safe drinking water for the county.

The flow in the Tallapoosa River is virtually non-existent as of this morning when the level suddenly dropped. We simply cannot meet the current demands being placed on the system due to high user consumption. Therefore by unanimous vote of the Haralson County Water Authority on October 11, 2016, we are implementing **Drought Level Response III**. Virtually no outdoor watering will be permitted with the following exceptions until such time that the Tallapoosa River flow permits. The following outdoor activities are restricted and or prohibited:

- (a) General Outdoor watering for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants will not be permitted which includes automated sprinkler systems, also located at many businesses.
- (b) Special Categories for outdoor use:
  1. Irrigation of personal food plots shall be conducted between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.; soaker hoses or drip irrigation may be used anytime.
  2. Recognizing most plants, shrubs, etc., are on the end of their growing season thereby hand watering with a hose will not be permitted.
  3. Irrigation of athletic fields or public turf grass recreational areas may be conducted between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., subject to the two days a week odd-even schedule described in Drought Level 2. These hours will foster and encourage supervision while watering athletic fields.

The Authority will establish an increased monitoring and technical outreach program to identify high users and recommend practices to reduce water usage. The Authority will likewise make available increased leak detection and repair programs.

The Authority will temporarily exempt the following Commercial outdoor water uses pending further guidance from GA EPD:

- a. Pressure washing
- b. Permanent car washing that it is connected to a sanitary sewer system of a local government or recycles used wash water.
- c. Construction sites.
- d. Watering-in of pesticides and herbicides on turf; and
- e. Other activities essential to daily business.

Your immediate attention to this matter is greatly appreciated as this ban applies countywide; both inside and outside city limits. I encourage and plead with you to get this word to your citizens and media by any means available and to provide immediate enforcement at the local level. With the record low levels and high user consumption, we could face running out drinking water on a wide spread basis. **We have never seen the Tallapoosa River at these levels.**

Sincerely,

  
Robert Downey, Chairman  
Haralson County Water Authority

# HARALSON COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

4277 GA Highway 120  
P.O. Box 429  
Buchanan, Georgia 30113  
(770) 646-6633

October 12, 2016

Mr. Richard E. Dunn, Director  
Environmental Protection Division  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
2 Martin Luther King Jr., Drive  
Suite 1456, East Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Variance Request for Haralson County Water Authority

Dear Director Dunn:

The Haralson County Water Authority is immediately going to Drought Level 3.

Documentation for a Variance Request will be forthcoming as soon as possible. The Tallapoosa River in Western Georgia has succumbed to the prolonged and persistent dry conditions. The Authority needs to reduce the consumptive level of use by individual customers or stand the chance of running out of water. The Authority's goal for daily distribution from the water treatment plant would be to reduce consumption from 2.7 down to 1.8 and 2.0 MGD. We will conduct a media blitz on the radio and newspapers in addition to the Authority's One-Call system and encourage customer to take the local drought and river conditions more seriously.

The Authority will implement Drought Level 3 to Haralson County.

- (a) General Outdoor watering for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants will not be permitted which includes automated sprinkler systems.
- (b) Special Categories for outdoor use:
  1. Irrigation of personal food plots shall be conducted between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.; soaker hoses or drip irrigation may be used anytime.
  2. Recognizing most plants, shrubs, etc., are on the end of their growing season thereby hand watering with a hose will not be permitted.
  3. Irrigation of athletic fields or public turf grass recreational areas may be conducted between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., subject to the

two days a week odd-even schedule described in Drought Level 2. These hours will foster and encourage supervision while watering athletic fields.

The Authority will establish an increased monitoring and technical outreach program to identify high users and recommend practices to reduce water usage. The Authority will likewise make available increased leak detection and repair programs.

As an incentive, the Authority will implement monetary penalties or terminate service to customers, who have been identified as high users that do not reduce outdoor water waste, repair outdoor water leaks, improper irrigation or other similar reasons. And, management will aggressively enact items from the Drought Response Strategies Menu where practical.

The Authority will exempt the following Commercial outdoor water uses:

- a. Pressure washing
- b. Permanent car washing that it is connected to a sanitary sewer system of a local government or recycles used wash water.
- c. Construction sites.
- d. Watering-in of pesticides and herbicides on turf; and
- e. Other activities essential to daily business.

The Authority is going to increase the pumping capacity of our pump station with Cleburne County, Alabama and open a second metered line with Cleburne County for direct injection into one of the Authority's municipal systems. The Authority will look at opening check valves and letting water reverse flow from a ground water storage tank to the City of Tallapoosa Georgia. We have our two groundwater wells online and pumping daily on an odd/even schedule to ensure recovery. The Authority has additionally offered our assistance with a Class I operator to one of our municipal customers that also has a water treatment plant; by increasing the available operators, the plant could provide more water to each of our systems while remaining in their permitted capacity.

The Authority will request the assignment of Drought Level 3 for a period of sixty days or until such time the flow in the Tallapoosa River recovers to before drought conditions.

Sincerely,



Robert Downey,  
Chairman, Haralson County Water Authority



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

**Richard E. Dunn, Director**

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**EPD Director's Office**  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive  
Suite 1456, East Tower  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
404-656-4713

Sept. 9, 2016

### **Georgia EPD Declares Level 1 Drought Response, Encourages Water Conservation**

Persistent dry conditions have prompted the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to declare a Level 1 Drought Response in 53 counties. A Level 1 Drought Response declaration means local water utilities in the affected counties will be required to begin a public information campaign to help citizens better understand drought, its impact on water supplies and the need for water conservation.

“A Level 1 Drought Response is a good opportunity to partner with our public water utilities to promote good stewardship and to remind Georgians of the importance of using water wisely,” said EPD Director Richard Dunn.

According to the federal government's U.S. Drought Monitor <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?GA>, varying degrees of drought impact about two-thirds of the state. Nearly all of the counties affected by the Level 1 Drought Response declaration are experiencing severe and extreme drought conditions.

“Water utilities have already taken action to insure that water supplies are generally good and practicing effective water conservation will help provide sufficient supplies through the coming months if dry conditions persist,” said EPD Director Dunn.

The public information campaign under a Level 1 Drought Response requires both groundwater and surface water utilities to circulate drought and water conservation information in one or more of the following: newspaper advertisements, water bill inserts, website homepages, social media and notices posted in public libraries.

The public information campaign will be required in the following counties: Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dade, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fannin, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Gordon, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Haralson, Harris, Heard, Henry, Houston, Jackson, Lamar, Lumpkin, Meriwether, Morgan, Murray, Newton, Oconee, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Rockdale, Spalding, Troup, Twiggs, Union, Walker, Walton, White, Whitfield and Wilkinson. (See attached map.)

In addition, the outdoor water use schedule required under the Water Stewardship Act of 2010 remains in place statewide. This schedule allows outdoor water use year-round between 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. There are several exceptions, such as new plantings, listed at <http://epd.georgia.gov/water-conservation>.

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“North Georgia has had a hot, dry summer and the fall season is historically a dry time of the year,” said State Climatologist Bill Murphey. “Current drought conditions are likely to continue through the fall season, although tropical activity and rain-producing systems can provide beneficial rainfall.”

Public water systems may not impose restrictions on outdoor watering that are different from the state requirements unless they obtain a variance from the EPD. Public water systems needing to impose outdoor water use restrictions more or less stringent than the state requirements may apply for a variance from the state’s current drought response and EPD is required to act upon that request within 5 business days. If conditions warrant in the future, EPD can declare additional drought responses to further manage water use.

The state’s rules for drought management and outdoor water use have changed since the last major drought. More information, including tips for water conservation, is available at <http://epd.georgia.gov/water-conservation>.

News Media Contact:

Kevin Chambers

404-651-7970

## **Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 391-3-30-.07 Drought Response Strategies**

**Georgia Administrative Code**

**Department 391. RULES OF GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Chapter 391-3. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Subject 391-3-30. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT**

*Current through Rules filed through September 26, 2016*

### **Rule 391-3-30-.07. Drought Response Strategies**

- (1) Within 5 days of receipt of notice from the Division of a drought response level declared pursuant to Rule 391-3-30-.05, each permittee within an area subject to a drought response level declaration shall implement the applicable drought response strategies listed below.
- (2) Drought Response Level 1.
  - (a) Permittees that are public water systems shall implement a public information campaign that shall include, at a minimum, public notice regarding drought conditions and drought specific public-service messages in one or more of the following ways: newspaper advertisements, bill inserts, website homepage, social media, and notices in public libraries.
- (3) Drought Response Level 2. During Drought Response Level 2, permittees shall implement all Drought Response Level 1 measures plus the following additional Drought Response Level 2 measures:
  - (a) General Outdoor Watering. Outdoor irrigation for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants, as described in Rule 391-3-30-.03(1)(a), shall be limited to two days a week on an odd-even schedule. Even numbered addresses may irrigate on Wednesday and Saturday between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Odd numbered addresses may irrigate on Thursday and Sunday between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. "Even numbered address" means an address number ending with the number 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, or the site does not have a numbered address. "Odd numbered address" means an address ending with the number 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.
  - (b) Specific Categories of Outdoor Water Use. The outdoor water uses listed in Rule 391-3-30-.03(1)(b) shall be allowed.
  - (c) The following outdoor water uses shall not be allowed, except as provided below:
    1. Washing hard surfaces such as streets, gutters, sidewalks and driveways, except when necessary for public health and safety;
    2. Using water for ornamental purposes, such as fountains, reflecting pools, and waterfalls;
    3. Use of fire hydrants, except for the purposes of firefighting, public health, safety, or flushing;
    4. Washing vehicles, such as cars, boats, trailers, motorbikes, airplanes, or golf carts;
    5. Non-commercial washing, or pressure washing, of buildings or structures, except for immediate fire protection; and

- (d) Permittees that are public water systems shall select and implement four, or more, additional practices from the Drought Response Strategies Menu in paragraph (5). Such permittees shall submit monthly reports to the Division by the 10th of each following month detailing the drought response strategies the system has selected, the extent of implementation, and enforcement strategy, if applicable.
- (4) Drought Response Level 3. During Drought Response Level 3, permittees shall implement all Drought Response Level 1 and 2 measures plus the following additional Drought Response Level 3 measures:
- (a) General Outdoor Watering. Outdoor irrigation for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants, as described in Rule 391-3-30-.03(1)(a), is not permitted.
- (b) Specific Categories of Outdoor Water Use. The outdoor water uses listed in Rule 391-3-30-.03(1)(b) shall be allowed, subject to the following additional requirements:
1. Irrigation of personal food gardens shall be conducted between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., unless done using drip irrigation or soaker hoses. Irrigation of personal food gardens using drip irrigation or soaker hoses may be done at any time;
  2. Handwatering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container may be conducted between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.;
  3. Irrigation of athletic fields or public turf grass recreational areas may be conducted between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., subject to the two days a week odd-even schedule described in Drought Response Level 2;
  4. Irrigation of golf courses shall be conducted in accordance with the "Golf Irrigation Prediction and Estimation Worksheet" and only between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., provided, however, irrigation of golf course greens may occur at any time of day;
  5. Use of reclaimed waste water by a designated user from a system permitted by the Division to provide reclaimed waste water shall not be allowed for general outdoor watering as described in Rule 391-3-30-.03(1)(a). It shall be allowed for any use described in Rule 391-3-30-.03(1)(b) subject to the limitations in Rule 391-3-30-.07(4)(b);
  6. Installation, maintenance, or calibration of irrigation systems is allowed, provided that it is done by professional landscapers or golf course superintendents.
- (c) Permittees that are public water systems shall implement all practices from the Drought Response Strategies Menu in paragraph (5).
- (d) Rate Structures. Within 1 year of the effective date of this Rule, permittees that are public water systems shall develop a drought surcharge program as a temporary price incentive for customers to reduce water demand during a declared drought. Permittees with tiered conservation rates that comply with specific criteria for tiered conservation rates in the applicable Regional Water Plan are not required to develop a drought surcharge program. Permittees are not subject to requirements regarding Rate Structures if they do not serve retail customers.
1. The drought surcharge program shall meet the following criteria:
    - (i) Drought surcharge rate(s) shall be implemented within 60 days of receipt of drought response level declaration notice.
    - (ii) Drought surcharge rate(s) shall be distinct from established water rates;
    - (iii) Drought surcharge rate(s) shall apply only to the volumetric water rates; and

- (iv) Drought surcharge rate(s) shall be approximately revenue neutral relative to non-drought periods. The Division will give deference to public water systems for their reasonable definition of revenue neutral.
  - (v) The drought surcharge program is not required to include industrial customers.
2. Permittees shall be exempted from the requirement to have drought surcharge rate(s) that are distinct from established water rates if they demonstrate to the Division that their billing system is unable to make such distinction. Such permittees shall notify all affected customers of the drought surcharge rate(s) through a billing insert whenever the drought surcharge program is initiated.
  3. Permittees shall be exempted from the requirement to have drought surcharge rate(s) that apply only to the volumetric water rates if they demonstrate to the Division that their billing system is unable to apply a surcharge rate only to the volumetric use of water.
  4. If the applicable Regional Water Plan does not have specific criteria for tiered conservation rates then permittees are exempted from the requirement to develop a drought surcharge program if their conservation rates are designed and implemented consistent with the Division's "Conservation-Oriented Rate Structures" guidance dated August 2007 or Conservation Action Item 5.1 in the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's 2009 Water Supply and Water Conservation Plan.

(e) Numeric Water Usage Reduction Requirements.

1. The Division may establish numeric reduction requirements for permittees that are public water systems and whose monthly average water use is greater than one million gallons per day. The numeric reduction requirements may vary based on time of year (i.e., warmer months and cooler months). The Division shall consider economic and climatic conditions during the baseline period when establishing the numeric reduction requirements. The Division shall also consider the public water system's peaking factor or their "Baseline Water Use and Efficiency Profile for Public Water Systems", if provided to the Division by the public water system, when establishing the numeric reduction requirements.
2. Permittees that are public water systems and whose industrial customers comprise more than 90 percent of water use shall be exempt from Numeric Water Usage Reduction Requirements.

(5) Drought Response Strategies Menu.

- (a) Public information campaign that goes significantly beyond the minimum notice and public service messages associated with Drought Response Level 1;
- (b) Glasses of water provided to restaurant customers only upon request;
- (c) Distribute retrofit kits and water saving devices to customers. These kits and devices may include, but not be limited to, shower heads, leak dye tabs, toilet tank displacement devices, and hose shut off nozzles;
- (d) Technical assistance outreach program to target high users to identify and/or recommend opportunities to reduce water usage;
- (e) Reduce system pressure, unless such reduction would create unsafe water supply conditions;
- (f) Pool cover requirements;
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- Implement a drought surcharge program, or tiered conservation rates, that satisfy the criteria of this rule;
- (h) Suspension of street cleaning program(s);
  - (i) Implement, or accelerate, leak detection and repair program(s);
  - (j) Impose monetary penalties or terminate water services to customers to reduce outdoor water waste due to excessive application, outdoor leaks, improper irrigation, or other similar reasons.
- (6) Professional Exemptions. The following commercial outdoor water uses are exempt from the Outdoor Water Use restrictions of this rule:
- (a) Pressure washing;
  - (b) Permanent car wash facility, provided that it is connected to a sanitary sewer system of a political subdivision or local government authority or recycles used wash water;
  - (c) Construction sites;
  - (d) Watering-in of pesticides and herbicides on turf; and
  - (e) Other activities essential to daily business.

**Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 391-3-30-.07**

**Authority:** O.C.G.A. §§ 12-5-7, 12-5-8, 12-5-170*et seq.*, 12-5-520 *et seq.*, and 12-5-570 *et seq.*

**History.** Original Rule entitled "Drought Response Strategies" adopted. F. July 15, 2015; eff. Aug. 4, 2015.