



INDIANA'S WATER SHORTAGE PLAN

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF WATER



Water Shortage:

A limitation of the water supply resulting from natural phenomenon such as drought and problems of water distribution and use



History of Water Shortage Plan

- **1988**: Drought focused attention on need for statewide plan to minimize impacts of a water shortage
- **1991**: Indiana General Assembly enacted HB 1260 which required DNR to develop Water Shortage Plan
- **1994**: Water Shortage Plan completed with input from Industry, Agriculture, Public Water Supplies, Municipalities, Environmental Groups, Government Agencies, etc.

Update of Indiana's Water Shortage Plan

**Senate Enrolled Act
No. 369
(IC 14-25-14)**

Selection of Water Shortage Task Force

- **Key water withdrawal users**, including: public water supply utilities, agriculture, steam electric generating utility companies, industrial users
- **Academic experts** in aquatic habitat and hydrology
- **Municipalities**
- **Key stakeholders**, including: environmentalists, consumer advocates, economic development advocates, and the public

Task Force Members

- **Public water supply utilities** – Bill Etzler, Aqua Indiana, Inc.
- **Agriculture** – James Facemire, Farmer, Johnson County SWCD Board of Supervisors
- **Steam electric generating utilities** – Jim Butcher, Indiana Michigan Power
- **Industrial users** – Mike Brooks, Steel Dynamics, Inc.
- **Academic experts** – Dennis Wichelns, Rivers Institute at Hanover College

Task Force Members (cont.)

- **Municipalities** – Carlton Curry; Indianapolis Dept. of Waterworks
- **Environmentalists** – John Goss, Indiana Wildlife Federation
- **Consumer advocates** – Scott Bell, Office of the Utility Consumer Counselor
- **Economic development advocates** – Vince Griffin, Indiana Chamber of Commerce
- **Public** – Jack Wittman, Wittman Hydro Planning Associates, Inc.

Task Force purposes

- **Implement 1994 Water Shortage Plan when necessary**
- **Update Expand and Revise the 1994 Water Shortage Plan to include a low flow and drought priority use schedule**

Work Completed by Water Shortage Task Force

- Review of:
 - Existing Plan
 - GW and SW Monitoring Program
 - Current Water Use (SWWFs)
 - Water Rights Issues and Conflicts
- Development of Water Shortage Plan Web Page
www.in.gov/2423.htm
- Determination of Appropriate Drought “Trigger” Index (State Climatologist)
- Review of Other State Programs
- Updated and Distributed “Indiana Suggested Model Ordinance”
- Development of Draft “Glossary of Terms”
- Review of “Consumptive Use Factors”
- Determination of “Water Shortage Identification Areas”
- Recommended Base Flow Policy
- Priority Use Identification and Protection
- Recommended Policy for Water Conservation



Indiana's Water Shortage Plan

In 1994, the Department and Natural Resources prepared [Indiana's Water Shortage Plan](#) that incorporated input from a variety of stakeholders. The plan included triggers to identify the onset of a water shortage and appropriate response actions, including water use priorities and conservation tools. The plan provided recommendations with voluntary restrictions or conservation methods; however, no implementing body was established. [Indiana Code 14-25-14](#) was enacted in 2006 and a [Water Shortage Task Force](#) was appointed by the Governor to administer and update the Water Shortage Plan. The Task Force is composed of a diverse and experienced group of professionals representing:

1. Public Water Supply Utilities
2. Agriculture
3. Steam Electric Generating Utilities
4. Industry
5. Municipalities
6. Environmentalists
7. Consumer Advocates
8. Economic Development Advocates
9. Academia
10. Public

The Water Shortage Task Force conducted its initial [meeting](#) on December 6, 2006, in the Indiana State House. Task Force [Committee Membership and Responsibilities](#) were proposed at the meeting. In addition, PowerPoint presentations entitled "[Senate Enrolled Act 369](#)" [[pdf version](#)] and "[Water, Water Where??](#)" [[pdf version](#)], were made by Department of Natural Resources staff and Mr. Carlton Curry of the City of Indianapolis Department of Waterworks, respectively. Indiana code 14-25-14 requires the Task Force to complete an

Drought Indicators

- 1-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)
- U.S. Drought Monitor
- Below normal percentiles of regionalized monthly average streamflow

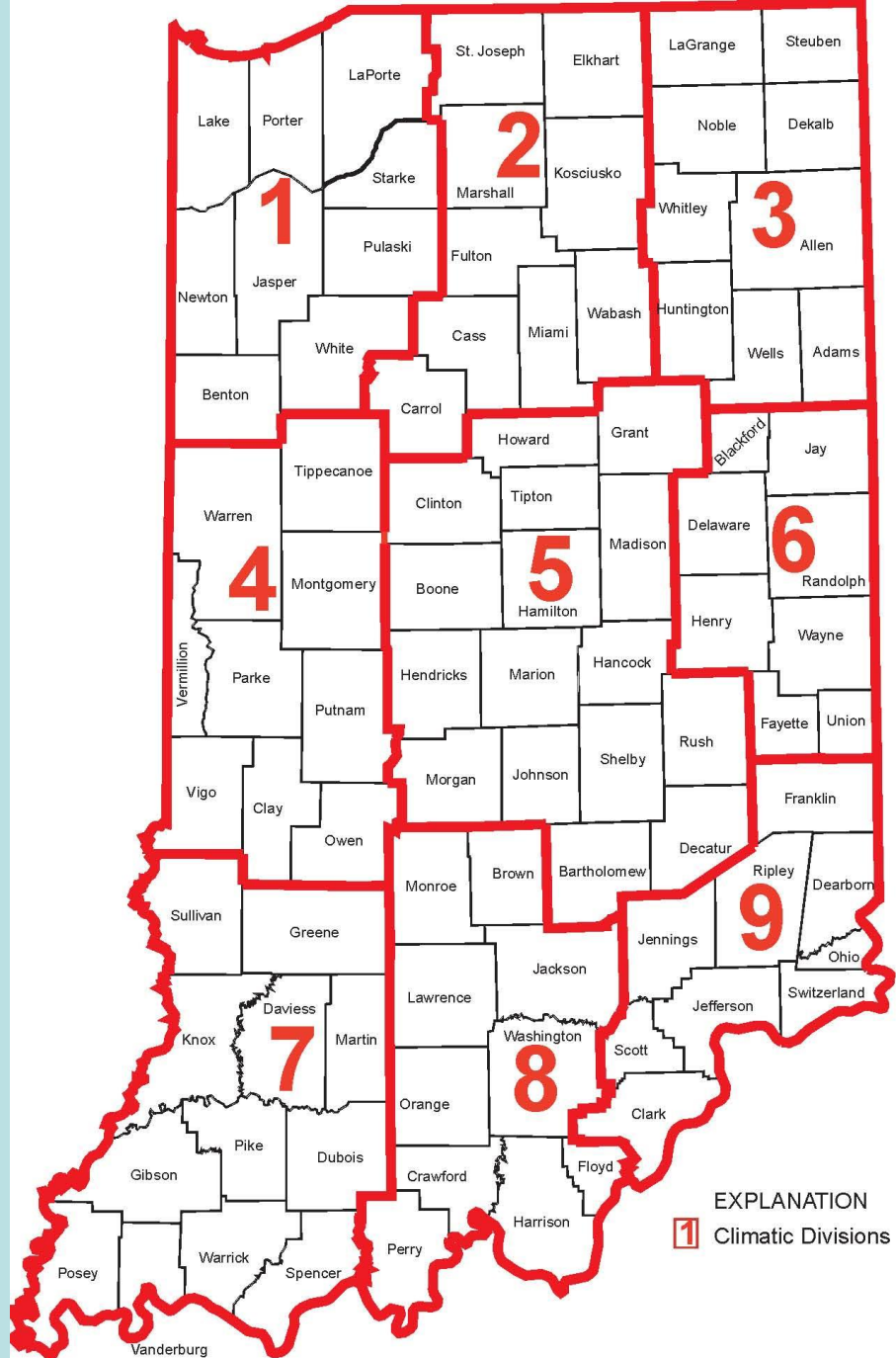
Indiana Suggested Model Ordinance

- **Local Option Draft Ordinance**
- ***Development of a “Water Management Strategy” by Local Unit of Government***
- ***Adoption and Implementation of Ordinance for Effective Management of Water during Temporary Water Shortage***

“Water Management Strategy”

- Increase Public Awareness of Value of Water
- Increase Public Knowledge of Wise Water Use
- Provide Economic Incentives for Desirable Water Management Practices
- Enhance Sum of Net Benefits from Water Resources
- Reduce Frequency, Duration, and Severity of Water Shortages
- Provide Economic Development Consistent with Water Supply Outlook

Water Shortage Identification Areas



EXPLANATION
1 Climatic Divisions

Figure 2. National Weather Service climatic divisions of Indiana

State of Indiana Baseline Streamflow Policy

Ecological protection is understood to be one of the recognized “beneficial uses” of water in the State. Therefore, the Water Shortage Task Force recommends that the ***80-Percent Flow Duration (Q80) stream discharge for the months of May through October*** be used as a trigger to initiate a local action process to protect aquatic and riparian habitat by monitoring minimum streamflow in surface waters during a shortage.

Water Use Priorities

- **First Priority** is for domestic purposes described in IC 14-25-1-3.
- **Second Priority** is for the use of health and safety
- **Third Priority** is for power production with contingency planning provisions.
- **Fourth Priority** is for industry and agriculture with contingency planning provisions.
- **Fifth Priority** is for power production, industry and agriculture without contingency planning provisions.
- **Sixth Priority** is for any other purpose.

Recommended Policy for Water Conservation



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF WATER

402 W Washington St
Rm: W264
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2641

Phone: 317-232-4160
Fax: 317-233-4579
Toll Free: 87-928-3555
E-mail: water_inquiry@dnr.in.gov

Irrigation Management Practices For Conserving Water, Nutrients & Energy

Knowledge of irrigation management practices allows you to take a more scientific approach to the irrigation process, achieve greater control, and begin to conserve water without compromising crop yield. Basic to this knowledge is understanding your system's capacity to deliver water. All irrigators need to know the net water application rate of their system, the irrigation guidelines for the specific crop being grown, and how to measure soil moisture levels. Good irrigation management requires one to know how much water the irrigation system delivers to a crop's roots over a given period of time, allowing adjustments to be made to the duration and frequency of application in order to maintain a balance between water and nutrients added to the soil, and the amount plants actually use.

Management Practices for Conservation:

- Whole System Maintenance—Identification of leaks in delivery and distribution, preservation of optimal operation pressure, maintaining gauges in good working order, testing regularly for application uniformity, system calibration, identification and repair of pressure and nozzle problems;
- Consistent Scheduling—Effective timing of applications for reducing evaporation rates;
- Utilize low pressure or low volume irrigation techniques with more efficient application practices;
- Utilize low elevation spray and larger drops settings to prevent drift and evaporation;
- Soil Management—Moisture measurement and monitoring to reduce run-off and increase crop water & nutrient utilization;
- Track seasonal crop water use;
- Repair or replace inefficient pumping plants;
- Provide sufficient soil storage capacity in the event rainfall follows irrigation;
- Know your crop's water needs at different stages of development and irrigate accordingly.

For more information regarding water conservation & energy savings visit the Division of Water website at:

www.in.gov/dnr/water/7113.htm



Summary of Findings

The Task Force summarized their findings and suggested items for future consideration in the following table in the form of Goals, Actions, and relevant entities for Implementation:

Goals	Actions	Implementation
1) Coordinate regional water supply and demand planning, and data collection efforts.	Encourage the Legislature to establish a sustainable Water Planning Task Force.	Water supply providers, IDNR, IDEM, IURC, USGS
2) Improve regional water conservation, allocation and management throughout Indiana.	Establish regional water supply and demand planning districts to develop water management and allocation policies for normal and abnormal water supply conditions for their respective areas, consistent with statewide goals and criteria.	Water supply providers, IDNR, IDEM, IURC *Establish a Division of Local Assistance to provide support for regional water planning per appropriate funding mechanism.
3) Protect public health and safety during water shortages.	Establish policies that allocate water to public health and safety uses as a matter of priority during water shortages.	Water supply providers, IDNR, IDEM, IURC
4) Encourage efficient allocation and conservation of water.	Implement policies and programs that encourage efficient use, including conservation of water in wet, normal, and dry years, and allocation during water shortage.	Water supply providers, IDNR, IDEM, IURC
5) Improve understanding of long-term water supply and demand in Indiana.	Establish water use databanks developed, standardized and shared through metering and reporting requirements.	IDNR, IDEM, IURC, USGS
6) Improve understanding of water use in Indiana.	Promote installation of accurate water metering devices at all withdrawal and/or end use points.	Water supply providers, IDNR, USGS

Explanation

DM	
Abnormally Dry	
Moderate Drought	
Severe Drought	
Extreme Drought	
Exceptional Drought	

2012 Declaration of “Water Shortage Warning”



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
Robert E. Carter, Jr., Director
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Indianapolis, IN 46204
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Fax (317) 233-4579
www.in.gov/dnr/water/

July 17, 2012

To: Owners/Operators of Significant Water Withdrawal Facilities

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security have issued a Water Shortage Warning because of drought conditions for all counties in the State of Indiana.

The objectives of the Water Shortage Warning stage are to prepare for a coordinated response to imminent water shortage conditions and potential water supply problems and to initiate concerted voluntary conservation measures in an effort to avoid or reduce shortages, relieve stressed sources, and if possible forestall the need for mandatory water use restrictions. A Water Shortage Watch is the lowest or mildest of three drought advisory phases; **a Water Shortage Warning is the second most severe stage**; and a Water Shortage Emergency is the most extreme condition. **Please be aware that a Water Shortage Warning was previously issued on July 2, 2012, for 32 counties in northeast and southwest Indiana.**

The goal of water conservation efforts during the Water Shortage Warning stage is a voluntary reduction in current water use of 10-15%. Public water supply systems are advised to immediately develop and update water shortage contingency plans for their respective systems, where such plans are not already available for implementation. Indiana's Water Shortage Plan, located on the Internet at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/water/files/watshplan.pdf>, lists several voluntary water conservation measures and programs for various categories of water users during a Water Shortage Warning, and can be found on pages 16 through 18. Indiana's Water Shortage Plan also includes an "Indiana Suggested Model Ordinance" that was developed by the Water Shortage Task Force to serve as a template for a Local Unit of Government to implement their own specific policies and response for water conservation and restriction within a community. A Word document version of the "Indiana Suggested Model Ordinance" can be found on the Internet at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/3124.htm> under the heading "Additional Links/Information" or directly at http://www.in.gov/dnr/water/files/Model_ordinance_Final_Draft%207-2-07.doc.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the Department of Natural Resource's declaration of the Water Shortage Warning or Indiana's Water Shortage Plan, please contact Mark Basch by e-mail at mbasch@dnr.IN.gov or at (317) 232-0154 or Jerry Unterreiner at gunterreiner@dnr.in.gov or at (317) 232-4222.

2010 Declaration of “Water Shortage Warning”



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
Robert E. Carter, Jr., Director
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www.in.gov/dnr/water/

October 8, 2010

To: Owners/Operators of Significant Water Withdrawal Facilities

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security have issued a Water Shortage Warning because of drought conditions for the following counties: Bartholomew, Brown, Clark, Crawford, Dearborn, Decatur, Dubois, Floyd, Franklin, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Ohio, Orange, Perry, Ripley, Scott, Shelby, Spencer, Switzerland, Union and Washington.

The objectives of the Water Shortage Warning stage are to prepare for a coordinated response to imminent water shortage conditions and potential water supply problems and to initiate concerted voluntary conservation measures in an effort to avoid or reduce shortages, relieve stressed sources, and if possible forestall the need for mandatory water use restrictions. A Water Shortage Watch is the lowest or mildest of three drought advisory phases; a **Water Shortage Warning is the second most severe stage**; and a Water Shortage Emergency is the most extreme condition.

The goal of water conservation efforts during the Water Shortage Warning stage is a **voluntary reduction in current water use of 10-15%**. Public water supply systems are advised to immediately develop and update water shortage contingency plans for their respective systems, where such plans are not already available for implementation. Indiana's Water Shortage Plan, located on the Internet at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/water/files/watshplan.pdf>, lists several voluntary water conservation measures and programs for various categories of water users during a Water Shortage Warning, and can be found on pages 16 through 18. Indiana's Water Shortage Plan also includes an "Indiana Suggested Model Ordinance" that was developed by the Water Shortage Task Force to serve as a template for a Local Unit of Government to implement their own specific policies and response for water conservation and restriction within a community. A Word document version of the "Indiana Suggested Model Ordinance" can be found on the Internet at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/3124.htm> under the heading "Additional Links/Information" or directly at http://www.in.gov/dnr/water/files/Model_ordinance_Final_Draft%207-2-07.doc.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the Department of Natural Resource's declaration of the Water Shortage Warning or Indiana's Water Shortage Plan, please contact Mark Basch by e-mail at mbasch@dnr.IN.gov or at (317) 232-0154 or Jerry Unterreiner at gunterreiner@dnr.in.gov or at (317) 232-4222.

2010 Declaration of “Water Shortage Warning” (AG)



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
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October 8, 2010

To: Owners/Operators of Significant Water Withdrawal Facilities for Agricultural Irrigation

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security have issued a Water Shortage Warning because of drought conditions for the following counties: Bartholomew, Brown, Clark, Crawford, Dearborn, Decatur, Dubois, Floyd, Franklin, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Ohio, Orange, Perry, Ripley, Scott, Shelby, Spencer, Switzerland, Union and Washington.

The Department of Natural Resources realizes that most agricultural irrigation has been completed for this year. However, the Department believes that you should be made aware of this Water Shortage Warning due to the potential for below normal precipitation during the remainder of 2010 and into the 2011 growing season.

The objectives of the Water Shortage Warning stage are to prepare for a coordinated response to imminent water shortage conditions and potential water supply problems and to initiate concerted voluntary conservation measures in an effort to avoid or reduce shortages, relieve stressed sources, and if possible forestall the need for mandatory water use restrictions. A Water Shortage Watch is the lowest or mildest of three drought advisory phases; a **Water Shortage Warning is the second most severe stage**; and a Water Shortage Emergency is the most extreme condition.

The goal of water conservation efforts during the Water Shortage Warning stage is a **voluntary reduction in current water use of 10-15%**. Indiana's Water Shortage Plan, located on the Internet at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/water/files/watshplan.pdf>, lists several voluntary water conservation measures and programs for various categories of water users during a Water Shortage Warning, and can be found on pages 16 through 18. Indiana's Water Shortage Plan also includes an "Indiana Suggested Model Ordinance" that was developed by the Water Shortage Task Force to serve as a template for a Local Unit of Government to implement their own specific policies and response for water conservation and restriction within a community. A Word document version of the "Indiana Suggested Model Ordinance" can be found on the Internet at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/3124.htm> under the heading "Additional Links/Information" or directly at http://www.in.gov/dnr/water/files/Model_ordinance_Final_Draft%207-2-07.doc.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the Department of Natural Resource's declaration of the Water Shortage Warning or Indiana's Water Shortage Plan, please contact Mark Basch by e-mail at mbasch@dnr.IN.gov or at (317) 232-0154 or Jerry Unterreiner at gunterreiner@dnr.in.gov or at (317) 232-4222.

WSP “Water Shortage Warning” Procedures

Indiana’s Water Shortage Plan

Part VI WATER SHORTAGE IDENTIFICATION PLAN PHASES AND RESTRICTIONS

D. Phase II: Water Shortage Warning

1. Objective

The objectives of the warning stage are to prepare for a coordinated response to imminent water shortage conditions and potential water supply problems and to initiate concerted voluntary conservation measures in an effort to avoid or reduce shortages, relieve stressed sources, and if possible forestall the need for mandatory water use restrictions. The objective of water conservation efforts during this stage is a reduction in current water use of 10-15% in the affected area.

2. Declaration

- a. When a Water Shortage Warning is indicated for the entire State, a region, area, or locality, the Department shall advise the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and the Director of IDHS of such conditions. The Department and IDHS jointly will declare the water shortage warning stage.
- b. IDHS will advise the members of the Task Force and other appropriate State agencies of the onset of water shortage warning conditions.
- c. The Department, in consultation with IDHS and the Governor’s Office, will issue press releases and other notifications to the media to advise the public of the declaration of a warning and potential for impending water supply problems.
- d. The Department, in conjunction with the Drinking Water Branch of IDEM, will advise public water supply systems in the affected area by telephone or letter regarding the declaration of a Warning.
- e. The Department, through the Division of Water will advise the owners of all registered high capacity water withdrawal facilities in the affected area by telephone or letter regarding the onset and declaration of warning conditions.

3. Response Actions

- a. The Department will maintain increased monitoring of climatic, hydrologic and water supply conditions in the affected area.
- b. The Director of the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Governor and the Director of IDHS, will appoint an officer of the Department

WSP Procedures (continued)

to serve as Water Shortage Coordinator. The Water Shortage Coordinator will be responsible for:

- (1) Coordinating, supervising and directing the preparations and response actions of all Department offices involved in water shortage management activities.
 - (2) Serving as lead liaison and advisor to the Task Force, IDHS and other State agencies regarding water shortage conditions and response actions.
 - (3) Assisting the Director and staff of IDHS in coordinating and directing water shortage response actions by all involved State agencies.
- c. The Department, in conjunction with the Drinking Water Branch of IDEM, will survey public water supply systems in the affected area in order to ascertain the status of water supply availability and demand.
 - d. The Department in conjunction with the Drinking Water Branch of IDEM, will identify public water supply systems which are faced with significant risks for developing water shortage or other problems, and will at least every two weeks continue to survey the status of such systems. The Department, in conjunction with IDHS, will initiate steps to identify potential emergency sources of water and other response actions which may be needed to address problems encountered by such systems and will advise the system operator, and where appropriate, the Utility Regulatory Commission (URC) regarding actions which should be taken to avoid or respond to potential problems.
 - e. The Department will advise the Governor, the Director of IDHS, and other State agencies regarding the progress of conditions through reports issued on at least a weekly basis.
 - f. IDHS, in consultation with the Department, will convene the Water Shortage Task Force to focus plans and preparations for possible imminent implementation of the Indiana Water Shortage Plan and to coordinate ongoing actions in response to current conditions.
 - g. The Department, in conjunction with IDEM, will advise public water supply systems to immediately develop and update water shortage contingency plans for their respective systems, where such plans are not already available for implementation.
 - h. The Department and IDHS, through press releases, the Indiana Department of Commerce, Utility Regulatory Commission or other available means, may advise large industrial, commercial and power plant water users to prepare water shortage contingency actions for reducing their respective water use

WSP Procedures (continued)

depending on the seriousness of water shortage conditions encountered in the affected area.

- i. The Department, in conjunction with IDHS, through the Division of Public Information, will issue advisories to the public and various categories of water users encouraging voluntary conservation measures of the type specified below under "Conservation Program".
- j. The Department, in conjunction with the Utility Regulatory Commission, will meet with representatives of the Electrical Generating Facilities to discuss contingency planning if the water shortage continues.

4. Water Conservation Program - Water Shortage Warning

The following voluntary water conservation measures and programs will be actively promoted and implemented during the water shortage warning stage:

a. Domestic and Other Sanitary Uses

The Department, municipalities, and public water supply systems should step-up public education programs concerning the reduction of in-home domestic use by implementing water conserving measures and installing water conserving devices. Municipalities and public water supply systems should make concerted efforts to advise the public and consumers of the need for early conservation efforts in light of water shortage warning conditions. Additional restrictions may apply for outdoor irrigation use as outlined in Item f.

- (1) Inside and outside aesthetic uses (i.e. lawn watering) of water should be voluntarily reduced.
- (2) Water used for washing and/or flushing streets, driveways, and other impervious areas should be voluntarily reduced.
- (3) Water used for recreation should be voluntarily reduced.
- (4) Water used for outside pressure cleaning should be voluntarily reduced.
- (5) The use of water for automobile and other mobile equipment washing, including boats and trailers, should be voluntarily reduced.
- (6) The use of water for cooling and air conditioning should be voluntarily reduced.

b. Essential Service Use

- (1) Fire hydrant use should be voluntarily reduced to fire fighting only; other uses of hydrants and hydrant flushing should be eliminated unless necessary to protect human health, safety, and welfare.

IDEM Public Water System Status Letter



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.

Mitchell E. Daniels Jr.
Governor

Thomas W. Easterly
Commissioner

100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 232-8603
Toll Free (800) 451-6027
www.idem.IN.gov

TO: Public Water Systems

FROM: Martha Clark Mettler, Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Office of Water Quality

SUBJECT: WATER SHORTAGE WARNING

DATE: October 13, 2010

On October 8, 2010, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Natural Resources issued a Water Shortage Warning. A copy of the Warning that was sent to Significant Water Withdrawal Facilities is enclosed. All public water systems are of particular importance during a potential water shortage. IDEM, along with other State agencies, will be working with you to minimize possible impacts that drought conditions may have on you or your customers.

One of the important objectives of a Water Shortage Warning is to initiate concerted voluntary conservation efforts as a means to avoid shortages and relieve stresses on the water sources. That means public water systems like yours will be asked to reduce water use by 10-15%. Additionally, the Water Shortage Warning is a trigger for public water systems "to immediately develop and update water shortage contingency plans for their respective systems, where such plans are not already available for implementation."

IDEM is requesting that you provide us a status on your system by completing and returning the attached questionnaire.

We are including a copy of Part D of *Indiana's Water Shortage Plan* which addresses Water Shortage Warnings and contains helpful information on reducing consumption. The entire plan can be found at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/files/watshplan.pdf>.

Also listed below are helpful links for you relating to water conservation and emergency planning:

http://www.epa.gov/watersense/water_efficiency/benefits_of_water_efficiency.html
(Benefits of Water Efficiency)
<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/chap3.cfm>
(How to Conserve Water and Use It Effectively)
http://www.in.gov/dnr/water/files/Model_ordinance_Final_Draft%207-2-07.doc
(Indiana Suggested Model Ordinance)

If you have questions contact: Drinking Water Branch at (317) 234-7430 or at the toll free number above.

Enclosures

IDEM Public Water System Questionnaire

Public Water System Water Shortage Warning Questionnaire

1. System Name: _____

2. System PWSID: _____

3. Are you currently experiencing any supply problems with your source? Yes ____
(please explain) No ____

4. Do you project an inability to obtain water or have problems obtaining water from
your source in the next 2 weeks? Yes ____ (please explain) No ____

5. Do you have a water shortage contingency plan? Yes ____ No ____

6. System Drought Contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

This form completed by: _____

**PLEASE MAIL THIS QUESTIONNAIRE BACK IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

USACE Evaluation of Reservoir Releases



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
Robert E. Carter, Jr., Director

October 8, 2010

Colonel Keith Landry
US Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville
P.O. Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

Dear Colonel Landry,

This letter is being sent to you with regard to the US Army Corps of Engineer's established procedure to lower water levels within the State of Indiana's Brookville and Patoka Reservoirs to winter pool elevations of 740 feet above mean sea level and 533 feet above mean sea level, respectively. It is my understanding that water levels within these two reservoirs, as well as the J.E. Roush, Salamonie, Mississinewa, Cecil Hardin and Cagles Mill Reservoirs, are typically lowered during the fall and early winter months to accommodate winter and spring precipitation. Due to the current drought conditions reported by the U.S. Drought Monitor for the State of Indiana, and the prospect of continued below normal precipitation during the upcoming winter and spring, the Department of Natural Resources is inquiring about the possibility of postponing or minimizing releases of water from these seven reservoirs by the US Army Corps of Engineers in anticipation of this reduced runoff. The IDNR would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this issue with members of your staff at their earliest convenience.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mark Basch of my staff by e-mail at mbasch@dnr.in.gov or at (317) 232-0154.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Carter, Jr.", written over the typed name and title.

Robert E. Carter, Jr.
Director
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources

IDNR Withdrawal of Request for Voluntary Conservation



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
Robert E. Carter, Jr., Director

October 27, 2010

Randolph Turner
Aurora Utilities
110 Main Street
Aurora, IN 47001

Dear Mr. Turner,

On October 8, 2010, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security issued a Water Shortage Warning for Dearborn County and 25 additional counties in southern Indiana due to existing drought conditions. The Water Shortage Warning was issued in accordance with criteria set forth in Indiana's Water Shortage Plan with the goal of a voluntary reduction of current water use of 10 to 15%. Public water supply systems were advised to develop and update water shortage contingency plans for their respective systems where plans were not already available for implementation.

Please be aware that the declaration of a Water Shortage Warning is based upon "Criteria to Identify Drought Conditions and Water Shortage Stages" set forth in Indiana's Water Shortage Plan. **Recent information provided to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management by Aurora Utilities indicates that your facility is currently experiencing no source water supply problem, and that the utility does not project an inability to obtain water from the source supply in the next two (2) weeks.** The Department of Natural Resources realizes that source water supplies for some significant water withdrawal facilities (SWWF) included in the Water Shortage Warning area may not be substantially impacted by current drought conditions, and a voluntary reduction of water use may not be necessary at this time. Based upon your utility's response to the IDEM questionnaire, as well as our Department's evaluation of ground water level data for your municipal wells that are completed in the outwash aquifer of the Ohio River, it does not appear that your source supply of water has been substantially impacted by the current drought. Therefore, the Department of Natural Resources is withdrawing its request for Aurora Utilities to voluntarily reduce water use 10 to 15% under the Water Shortage Warning issued on October 8, 2010. The Department will continue to monitor ground-water levels in your area and, if conditions warrant, reinstitute a Water Shortage Warning or Water Shortage Emergency for your facility in accordance with Indiana's Water Shortage Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Mark Basch of my staff at mbasch@dnr.in.gov or at (317) 232-0154.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron McAhron".

Ron McAhron
Deputy Director
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources

**Visit the
Water Shortage Plan Website
for copies of the Plan and/or
information regarding the
Water Shortage Task Force
and updates to the Plan**

www.in.gov/dnr/3124.htm

**For more information or
questions regarding
Indiana's Water Shortage Plan**

mbasch@dnr.in.gov

