

SECTION H.
DROUGHT CONTINGENCY
AND
EMERGENCY WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

The goal of this plan is to cause a reduction in water use in response to drought or emergency conditions so that the water availability can be preserved. Since emergency conditions can occur rapidly, responses must also be enacted quickly. This plan has been prepared in advance considering conditions that will initiate and terminate the rationing program.

The General Manager, or his/her designee is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of this Plan upon determination that such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The General Manager or his/her designee shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this Plan.

The plan will be implemented according to the three stages of rationing as imposed by the Board of Directors. Item (4) describes the conditions that will trigger these stages.

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by the Board by scheduling and providing public notice of a public meeting to accept input on the Plan. Notice of the meeting was provided to all customers. In the adoption of this plan, the Board considered all comments from customers.

3. COORDINATION WITH THE CITY OF MONAHANS

Purchasing all of our water from the City of Monahans, a copy of this Plan has been provided to the City.

4. TRIGGER CONDITIONS

The General Manager is responsible for monitoring water supply and demand conditions and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the plan, that is, when the specified triggers are reached. The General Manager will monitor monthly operating reports, water supply or storage tank levels as needed to determine when trigger conditions are reached. The triggering conditions described below take into consideration: the vulnerability of the water source under drought of record conditions; the production, treatment and distribution capacities of the system, and member usage based upon historical patterns.

Stage I - Mild Condition: Stage I water allocation measures may be implemented when one or more of the following conditions exist:

- (1) When water reservoir levels that do not refill due to limited power failure, water main breaks, or other unforeseen emergencies.
- (2) When, pursuant to requirements specified in the Southwest Sandhills WSC wholesale water purchase contract with The City of Monahans, notification is received requesting initiation of Stage 1 of the Drought Contingency Plan.

b. Stage II - Moderate Conditions: Stage II water allocation measures may be implemented when one of the following conditions exist:

- 1) The water level in any of the water storage tanks cannot be replenished for one day (24 Hour).
- (2) When, pursuant to requirements specified in the Southwest Sandhills WSC wholesale water purchase contract with The City of Monahans, notification is received requesting initiation of Stage 2 of the Drought Contingency Plan.

c. Stage III - Severe Conditions: Stage III water allocation measures may be implemented when one of the following five conditions exist:

- 1) Failure of a major component of the system or an event that reduces the minimum residual pressure in the system below 20 psi for a period of 24 hours or longer.
- 2) Water consumption of 95 percent or more of the maximum available for three (3) consecutive days.
- 3) Water consumption of 100 percent of the maximum available and the water storage levels in the system drop during one 24-hour period.
- 4) Natural or man-made contamination of the water supply source(s).
- 5) The declaration of a state of disaster due to drought conditions in a county or counties served by the Corporation.
- 6) Reduction of wholesale water supply due to drought conditions.
- 7) Other unforeseen events that could cause imminent health or safety risks to the public.

5. STAGE LEVELS OF WATER ALOCATIONS

The stage levels of water allocations are to be placed in effect by the triggers in Item (4). The System shall institute monitoring and enforce penalties for violations of the Drought Plan for each of the Stages listed below. The water allocation measures are summarized below.

a. Stage I - Mild Conditions

- 1) Alternate day, time of day, or duration restrictions for outside water usage allowed. (System will notify Customers which restriction is in effect)
- 2) The system will reduce flushing operations.
- 3) Reduction of customers' water use will be encouraged through notices on bills or other method.

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b. Stage II - Moderate Conditions

- 1) All outside water use is prohibited (except for livestock variances).
- 2) Make public service announcements as conditions change via local media (TV, radio, newspapers, etc.).

c. Stage III - Severe Conditions

- 1) All outside watering prohibited.
- 2) Water use will be restricted to a percentage of each member's prior month usage. This percentage may be adjusted as needed according to demand on the system. Notice of this amount will be sent to each customer.
- 3) Corporation shall continue enforcement and educational efforts.

NOTE:

- Refer to your water purchase contract for additional restrictions/requirements that may be imposed by stipulations from the wholesale supplier.
- There may be additional restrictions imposed by Governmental Entities.
- Meters will be read as often as necessary to insure compliance with this program for the benefit of all the customers.

6. INITIATION AND TERMINATION PROCEDURES

Once a trigger condition occurs, the Corporation, or its designated responsible representative, shall, based on recommendation from the General Manager, decide if the appropriate stage of rationing shall be initiated. The initiation may be delayed if there is a reasonable possibility the water system performance will not be compromised by the condition. If water allocation is to be instituted, written notice to the customers shall be given.

Written notice of the proposed water allocation measure shall be mailed or delivered to each affected customer upon the initiation of each stage. In addition, upon adoption of Stage II or Stage III, a notice will be placed in a local newspaper or announced on a local radio or television station. The customer notice shall contain the following information:

- a. The date water allocation shall begin,
- b. The expected duration,
- c. The stage (level) of water allocations to be employed,
- d. Penalty for violations of the water allocation program, and
- e. Affected area or areas.

If the water allocation program extends 30 days then the General Manager shall present the reasons for the allocations at the next scheduled Board Meeting and shall request the concurrence of the Board to extend the allocation period.

When the trigger condition no longer exists then the responsible official may terminate the water allocations provided that such an action is based on sound judgment. Written notice of the end of allocations shall be given to customers. A water allocation period may not exceed 60 days without extension by action of the Board.

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7. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

- a. **First Violation** – The customer/member will be notified by a written notice of their specific violation.
- b. **Second Violation** - The Corporation may install a flow-restricting device in the customer's service line to limit the amount of water that will pass through the meter in a 24-hour period. The cost of this shall be the actual cost to do the work and shall be paid by the customer.
- c. **Subsequent Violations** - The Corporation may terminate service for up to 7 days and charge for the service call to restore service.

These provisions apply to all customers of the Corporation.

8. EXEMPTIONS OR WAIVERS


The General Manager may, in writing, grant temporary variance for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health or sanitation for the public or the person requesting such variance and if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- a. Compliance with this Plan cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the water supply shortage or other condition for which the Plan is in effect.
- b. Alternative methods can be implemented which will achieve the same level of reduction in water use.

Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Ordinance shall file a petition for variance with the Corporation within 5 days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked or after a condition justifying the variance first occurs. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the General Manager, or his/her designee and with the advice of the board of directors and shall include the following:

- Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- Purpose of water use.
- Specific provision(s) of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
- Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Plan.
- Description of the relief requested.
- Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- Alternative water use restrictions or other measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.
- Other pertinent information, as requested by the Corporation.

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Variances granted by the Corporation shall be subject to the following conditions, unless specifically waived or modified by the Board of Directors:

- Variances granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
- Variances granted shall expire when the water allocation is no longer in effect, unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements. No variance allowed for a condition requiring water allocation will continue beyond the termination of water allocation under Item 8. Any variance for a subsequent water allocation must be petitioned again. The fact that a variance has been granted in response to a petition will have no relevance to the Corporation's decision on any subsequent petition.

No variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.

9. IMPLEMENTATION

The Board of Directors will review the procedures in this plan annually or more frequently as needed. Modifications may be required to accommodate system growth, changes in water use demand, available water supply and/or other circumstances.

The Board at a properly noticed meeting held on June 11, 2002 adopted this Plan.

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