

**BEAUFORT COUNTY  
SOUTHSIDE  
(PWS ID#04-07-40)**

**WATER SHORTAGE  
RESPONSE PLAN**



**Revised: June 4, 2018  
Reviewed: June 1, 2023**

# **BEAUFORT COUNTY SOUTHSIDE**

## **Water Shortage Response Plan**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Rules governing water use during droughts and water emergencies adopted on March 19, 2007 dictate that water systems which are required to submit a Local Water Supply Plan shall also submit a Water Shortage Response Plan (WSRP) for review by the Division of Water Resources. The requirements are outlined in North Carolina Administrative Code 15A NCAC 02E. 0607. It is the intent of this document to establish a WSRP for the south side of Beaufort County in order to minimize the adverse effects of drought and water emergencies while satisfying the requirements of the State.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

Beaufort County is divided in half by the Pamlico River. These two halves are named the Beaufort County Northside and the Beaufort County Southside. Water for the Beaufort County Southside customers comes from six ground wells that have been installed into the Castle Hayne and Pee Dee Aquifers. These wells are located along Hwy 33 East 3 to 5 miles east of Chocowinity and along Old Sand Hill Road. These wells pump raw water to two water treatment plants, which are also located along Hwy 33 East and Old Sand Hill Road. At the treatment plants the water is treated to remove odor, iron, manganese, and hardness. Chlorine and Ammonia (Chloramines) are added as disinfections to make sure there is no disease-causing bacteria present in the treated water supply. A Chloramine residual is also kept in the distribution system in order to prevent bacterial growth. The treated water is stored in three elevated storage tanks and one ground storage tank, which hold Five Hundred Thousand gallons of treated water each.

### **3.0 RESPONSIBLE PARTIES**

Three individuals are responsible for implementing the water shortage protocols:

Mr. Brian Alligood

County Manager

(252) 946-0079

brian.alligood@beaufortcountync.gov

Mrs. Christina Smith

Public Works Director

(252) 975-0720

christina.smith@beaufortcountync.gov

Mr. Erick Jennings

Water Systems Manager

(252) 975-0720

erick.jennings@beaufortcountync.gov

If any of these individuals no longer holds their position, then the responsibilities entailed here carry to their successor. In the event that none of the aforementioned individual can fulfill their duties in implementing the water shortage protocols the Board of County Commissioners will be responsible for implementing the protocols.

### **4.0 ACTIVATION NOTIFICATION METHODS**

It is vital to the effectiveness of this plan that water users and system employees are immediately informed when water shortage response protocols are

activated. Upon activation, employee emails will be sent out and notices at County buildings will be posted to inform system employees of the protocols. Water users will be notified of water shortage response activation by a reverse 911 phone call, a posting to the Beaufort County Government website, a notice in the Washington Daily News, notices in water bills, and a public service announcement on local television stations.

## **5.0 NOTIFICATION OF REQUIRED RESPONSE MEASURES**

Water Shortage Response Plan provisions will be published in the Washington Daily News and will be available on the Beaufort County Government website in the event that the plan is put into effect. In addition, if changes to the Plan are made, notifications will be provided to all current customers.

## **6.0 SEVERITY CRITERIA**

Several parameters may determine the severity of a drinking water shortage. The two primary conditions will be a significant reduction in well water levels and a significant increase in the length of time (hours) that each Water Treatment Plant must operate per day in order for supply to meet the required demand. In addition, severity can be affected as deemed appropriate by the County Manager, Public Works Director, or Water Systems Manager by contaminants in the water system and/or mechanical failure of the water treatment and distribution systems.

## **7.0 TRIGGER CONDITIONS**

There will be three levels of response, triggered by the aforementioned conditions of severity:

- Level 1 will be activated whenever it is predicted that the water level in the Castle Hayne Aquifer will decline to the extent that continued availability of water for human consumption, sanitation, health and fire protection and commercial usage is at risk; if a 20% reduction in normal well water levels is noted in Beaufort County Southside’s monitoring wells; or if the County Manager, Public Works Director, or Water Systems Manager deems it appropriate based upon other unanticipated operating conditions.
- Level 2 will be activated if a 40% reduction in normal well water levels is noted in Beaufort County Southside’s monitoring wells, Water Treatment Plant Operation is greater than 18 hours per day per plant, or if the County Manager, Public Works Director, or Water Systems Manager deems it appropriate based upon other unanticipated operating conditions.
- Level 3 will be activated if a 60% reduction in normal well water levels is noted in Beaufort County Southside’s monitoring wells, Water Treatment Plant Operation is 24 hours per day per plant, or if the County Manager, Public Works Director, or Water Systems Manager deems it appropriate based upon other unanticipated operating conditions.

## **8.0 LEVELS OF RESPONSE**

Three levels of response have been selected, each corresponding to various conditions set forth above. Each level of response has a unique set of goals and strategies as shown here:

- Level 1—Voluntary Conservation: A 5% reduction goal from the previous month for water consumption is set. Conditions indicate that there is a potential for shortages. Voluntary conservation is encouraged. Education efforts are ramped up to encourage water conservation, and any evidence of leaks is investigated and corrected as seen fit. Education efforts should suggest limiting irrigation to one inch per week, preventing runoff and watering of impervious services, washing only full loads in the washer or

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- dishwasher, eliminating play with sprinklers and hoses, and repairing any known leaks.
- Level 2—Mandatory Restriction: A 10% reduction goal from the previous month for water consumption is set. Water supplies are measurably lower than the seasonal norm and are diminishing. Encourage continuation of all voluntary reductions. Restrictions on non-essential uses of water are imposed. Irrigation is limited to one half inch per week between 6PM and 9AM. Use of potable water for washing impervious services is banned.
  - Level 3—Emergency Response: A 25% reduction goal from the previous month for water consumption is set. The system is experiencing water shortage at this level and drinking water supply is inadequate. More stringent restrictions are imposed. Continue all restrictions from Level 2. No non-essential uses of water are allowed and other uses of water may be restricted if deemed necessary by the County Manager, Public Works Director, or Water Systems Manager. Irrigation is limited strictly to minimum required amount for the survival of necessary plants.

For the purposes of this Plan, non-essential uses of drinking water are as follows:

- Any ornamental use such as fountains, reflecting pools, and artificial water falls
- Watering gardens, lawns, parks, golf courses (except greens), playing fields, and other recreational areas
- Filling and operation of recreational swimming pools which serve fewer than 25 dwellings
- Non-commercial washing of motor vehicles
- Serving water in restaurants, clubs, or eating places except by specific request
- Refilling of air conditioning cooling towers, except for those used by health care facilities or domestic use if it is deemed necessary to sustain standards of hygiene, health, and sanitation

## **9.0 ENFORCEMENT**

An email contact will be set up so that citizens can report violators of the restrictions set after activation of the Plan. In addition, a citation system will be set up to be administered by the County Manager as follows:

- A first offense will warrant a written warning.
- Second offenses will result in a \$100 fine and a warning.
- Third offenses will result in a \$250 fine.
- Fourth offenses will result in an additional \$500 fine.
- Fifth offenses will result in an additional \$500 fine and a five-day service cutoff.

In addition, during activation of Level 3 Emergency Response protocol, the rates for water consumption may be increased up to 50% to further discourage water waste and to compensate for lost revenues of the water system.

## **10.0 USER REVIEW**

Understanding that review by water users is essential to cooperation and understanding, this Plan will be made available for public review prior to approval of any revisions by the Board of County Commissioners. Each time a change is proposed to the Plan it will be published on the Beaufort County Government website at least thirty days before the Board prepares to discuss its acceptance. This will allow the public adequate time to review the change and appear at the Board's meeting to provide input.

## **11.0 VARIANCES**

Variances to the restrictions outlined in this plan may be granted at the discretion of the County Manager, Public Works Director, or Water Systems Manager based on the impact on water demand, essential use of drinking water,



duration of the variance, alternatives to the variance, social and economic importance, prevention of structural damage, and any other factors deemed important.

## **12.0 EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS & REVISION**

Effectiveness of the Water Shortage Response Plan will be reviewed jointly by the Water Systems Manager, the Public Works Director, and the County Manager each time the plan is activated, or at a maximum of a five-year interval. In addition, the plan must be reviewed to adapt to system additions, alterations, or changes in general circumstance. Recommendations will be made as deemed appropriate to the Board of County Commissioners. Effectiveness will be measured based upon several factors but should include frequency of activation, attainment of desired reductions upon activation, and the number of violation citations.