

Water Shortage Response Plan
Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority (MCRWASA)
Martin County, North Carolina
March 12, 2018

The procedures herein are written to reduce potable water demand and supplement existing drinking water supplies whenever existing water supply sources are inadequate to meet current demands for potable water.

I. Authorization

The Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority (MCRWASA) Chairman or his authorized representative shall enact the following water shortage response provisions whenever the trigger conditions outlined in Section III are met. In his or her absence, the Vice-Chairman will assume this role.

Mr. David Bone, Chairman
MCRWASA
Phone: (252) 789-4300
E-mail: dbone@martincountyncgov.com

Mr. Al Chesson, Vice-Chairman
MCRWASA
Phone: (252) 792-4486
E-mail: al@archesson.com

II. Notification

The following notification methods will be used to inform water system employees and Martin County and the Town of Williamston. Employee e-mail announcements, notices at the Authority Water Treatment Plant, and on the Authority website homepage. Required water shortage response measures will be communicated through *The Williamston Enterprise*, PSA announcements on local radio and TV stations, and on the Authority website. Declaration of all stages of emergency water restrictions or water rationing will be communicated to the water director and/or chief administrator of all member entities by telephone.

III. Triggers and Levels of Response

Three levels of water shortage response are detailed below.

Stage 1: Voluntary Water Use Reduction

A Stage 1 water emergency at the plant will be declared in the event of an immediate water shortage or when there are three consecutive days that the plant cannot maintain raw water storage reservoir above 90% of design capacity, 11 MG. Water production capacity shall be defined as the maximum volume of water that meets state and federal standards that the water treatment process can produce during a twenty-four hour period.

Water production capacity can vary depending on system component reliability and raw water conditions. Following the declaration of a Stage 1 water emergency, Williamston and Martin County will be notified to consider the declaration of the same emergency level at the local level and the following voluntary water conservation practices shall be encouraged:

- Inspect and repair all faulty and defective parts of faucets and toilets.
- Use shower for bathing rather than bathtub and limit shower to no more than 5 minutes.
- Do not leave faucets running while shaving, brushing teeth, rinsing or preparing food.
- The use of clothes washers and dishwashers and when used, operate fully loaded. Operate dishwashers after the peak demand hours of 6 to 10 p.m.
- Limit lawn watering to that necessary for plant survival. Water lawns before the peak demand hours of 6 to 10 a.m.
- Water shrubbery the minimum required. Water shrubbery before the peak demand hours of 6 to 10 a.m.
- Limit vehicle washing
- Do not wash down outside areas such as sidewalks, driveways, patios, etc.
- Install water saving showerheads and other devices.
- Use disposable and biodegradable dishes where possible
- Install water saving devices in toilets such as early closing flappers.
- Limit hours of water-cooled air conditioners.
- Do not fill swimming or wading pools
- Commercial and industrial customers should review their water uses, perform water audits and install reclaimed/ recycle water systems where feasible.

Stage 2: Mandatory Water Use Restrictions (In Addition to Voluntary Measures)

A Stage 2 water emergency at the plant will be declared in the event of an immediate water shortage or when there are three consecutive days when water below exceeds 70% capacity of raw water reservoir. Water production capacity shall be defined as the maximum volume of water that meets state and federal standards that the water treatment process can produce during a twenty-four hour period.

Water production capacity can vary depending on system component reliability and raw water conditions. Following the declaration of a Stage 2 water emergency, Williamston and Martin County will be notified to consider the declaration of the same emergency level at the local level.

Following the declaration of a Stage 2 water emergency, Williamston and Martin County will be notified to consider the declaration of the same emergency stage at the local level and the following actions should be discouraged:

- Watering lawns, grass, shrubbery, trees, flower and vegetable gardens except by hand held hose, container, or drip irrigation system. A person who regularly sells plants will be permitted to use water on their commercial stock. A golf course may water their greens. State, County and City licensed landscape contractors may water by hand held hose or drip irrigation any plants under a written warranty.
- Filling swimming or wading pools, either newly constructed or previously drained. Make up water for pools in operation will be allowed
- Using water-cooled air conditioners or other equipment, in which cooling water is not recycled, unless there are health or safety concerns.
- Washing any type of mobile equipment including cars, trucks, trailers, boats, or airplanes. Any persons involved in a business of washing motor vehicles may continue to operate.
- Washing outside surfaces such as streets, driveways, service station aprons, parking lots, or patios.
- Washing the exterior of office buildings, homes, or apartments.
- Using water for any ornamental fountain, pool, pond, etc.
- Serving drinking water in food establishments such as restaurants or cafeterias, unless requested to do so by a customer.
- Using water from a public or private fire hydrant for any reason other than to suppress a fire or other public emergency or as authorized by the Executive Director or his authorized representative.
- Using water to control or compact dust.
- Intentionally wasting water.
- Commercial and industrial water customers shall achieve mandatory reductions in water usage through whatever means are available.

Stage 3: Emergency Water Use Restrictions/Bans (and/or Rationing)

A **Stage 3** water emergency will be declared in the event of the water plant cannot withdraw enough water from the river to maintain the Off Storage Reservoir for three consecutive days. Water production capacity shall be defined as the maximum volume of water that meets contract requirements between stake holders that the water treatment process can produce during a twenty-four hour period. Water production capacity can vary depending on system component reliability and raw water conditions. Following the declaration of a Stage 3 water emergency by the Facility ORC (Operator in Charge) or the Chairman of the Authority, each member entity of the Authority will be notified via phone to consider the declaration of the same emergency stage at the local level. The choice to implement the recommended water shortage response level will be determined and enforced at the local level.

Water production capacity can vary depending on system component reliability and raw water conditions. Following the declaration of a Stage 3 water emergency, Williamston and Martin County will be notified to consider the declaration of the same emergency level at the local level and the following activities should be discouraged, in addition to activities discouraged under Stage 2:

- Watering lawns, grass, shrubbery, trees, and flowers (no exceptions).
- Washing motor vehicles at commercial car wash establishments.
- Watering any vegetable garden except by hand held hose, container, or drip irrigation.
- Commercial and industrial water customers shall achieve mandatory reductions in water

usage through whatever means are available. A minimum reduction of 50% shall be the target; however a greater target reduction percentage may be required depending on the severity of the water emergency. Compliance with the reduction target shall be determined by the authorized representative of each member entity of the Authority, Variances to the target reduction may be granted by the authorized representative to designated public health facilities.

The following water practices shall be required under Stage 3:

- The Martin County Water District will utilize their wells to make up the shortfall and intact their water emergency plan.
- The Town of Williamston Water District will utilize their wells to make up the shortfall and intact their water emergency plan.

IV. Compliance Plans During Emergencies

Each member entity may require that commercial and industrial water customers prepare plans detailing measures to be taken by them to achieve mandatory reductions in daily water usage during emergencies. Such plans shall be completed within sixty (60) Calendar days after receipt of notice to prepare them.

V. Enforcement and Penalties for Violation of Mandatory Restrictions

All enforcement decisions and actions will be the sole responsibility of each member entity at the local level.

VI. Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the MCRWASA water shortage response plan will be determined by monitoring the Roanoke River levels to determine when the facility can resume pumping from the river. Other factors to be considered include frequency of plan activation, any problem periods without activation, desired reductions attained, and evaluation of demand reductions compared to the previous year's seasonal data.

VII. Revision

The water shortage response plan will be reviewed and revised as needed to adapt to new circumstances affecting water supply and demand, following implementation of emergency restrictions, and at a minimum of every five years. Further, the Authority Board may be reconvened to review procedures following each emergency or rationing stage to make any necessary improvements to the plan. The Chairman or his authorized representative is responsible for initiating all subsequent revisions.

VIII. Appeal by Customers of Penalties and Termination of Service

The Member Utility's municipal council, county board, or board of directors shall be the final decision maker for appeals and shall transmit a written copy of the final decision by registered or certified mail within three days after notification by the authorized representative.

IX. Adoption and Enforcement of Article by Public or Private Water Systems

MCRWASA does not maintain the authority to enforce the above water shortage restrictions on any its members. However, any public or private water systems purchasing water from the Authority will be encouraged to activate the same water shortage emergency stage as declared by the Chairman of the Authority or his authorized representative. At a minimum, MCRWASA will require that each member adopt the stated definitions of the stages of water emergencies contained herein such that a consistent conservation message can be delivered to the customers should a water shortage occur. Upon declaration of a water emergency by the Chairman of the Authority or his authorized representative, the public or private water systems shall be responsible for enforcement of the appropriate water use restrictions for the level of declared emergency.

X. Termination of Restrictions

A water emergency declaration will expire when the Chairman or his authorized representative determines that the condition which caused the emergency has abated. Water shortage conditions will be evaluated on a weekly basis by the Chairman of the Authority or his authorized representative. The expiration or cancellation of a water emergency declaration shall be promptly declared to each member entity by phone. At that point, each member entity will evaluate their individual water availability to determine if ongoing restrictions are necessary.