

Water Shortage Response Plan  
Scotland County (South), North Carolina  
PWSID #03-83-035  
May 31, 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. The Scotland County North water system will, at a minimum, adopt and enforce water use reduction measures contained in this plan as a condition of water purchased from the City of Laurinburg.

## I. Authorization

The Scotland County Manager shall enact the following water shortage response provisions whenever the trigger conditions outlined in Section IV are met. In his or her absence, the City of Laurinburg Treatment Plants Director will assume this role.

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## II. Notification

The following notification methods will be used to inform water system employees and customers:

### A. Water Shortage Declaration

Notification of water shortage declaration shall be by employee e-mail announcements, notices at municipal buildings, notices in water bills and on the Scotland County website homepage.

### B. Required Water Shortage Response Measures

Notification of required water shortage response measures will be communicated through The Laurinburg Exchange, PSA announcements on local radio and cable stations, and on the Scotland County website.

### C. Declaration of Emergency

Declaration of emergency water restrictions or water rationing will be communicated to all customers by telephone through use of reverse 911.

## III. Levels of Response

Five levels of water shortage response are outlined in the table below. The five levels of water shortage response are:

<b>Stage I</b>	<i>Water Restriction Alert – Voluntary Water Restriction</i>
<b>Stage II</b>	<i>Water Shortage – Level A Level B Warning</i>
<b>Stage III</b>	<i>Water Shortage – Danger Mandatory Water Restriction</i>
<b>Stage IV</b>	<i>Water Shortage – Emergency Mandatory Water Restriction</i>
<b>Stage V</b>	<i>Water Shortage – Crisis Mandatory Water Restriction</i>

A detailed description of each response level and corresponding water reduction measures follow below.

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Description</b>
I	Voluntary Reductions	Water users are encouraged to reduce their water use and improve water use efficiency; however, no penalties apply for noncompliance. Water supply conditions indicate a potential for shortage.
II	Mandatory Reductions I	Water users must abide required water use reduction and efficiency measures; penalties apply for noncompliance. Water supply conditions are significantly lower than the seasonal norm and water shortage conditions are expected to persist.
III	Mandatory Reductions II	Same as in Stage II
IV	Emergency Reductions	Water supply conditions are substantially diminished and pose an imminent threat to human health or environmental integrity.
V	Water Rationing	Water supply conditions are substantially diminished and remaining supplies must be allocated to preserve human health and environmental integrity.

### A. Stage I Water Restriction Alert – Voluntary Water Restriction

Daily water demand is approaching 90% of the City's water treatment capacity or operational time and that there is not more than 150 days of water supply available to the City's water system. All water users will be asked to reduce their normal water use by 5%. Irrigating landscapes a maximum of one inch per week; preventing water waste,

runoff and watering impervious surfaces; water plants deeply to encourage root growth; washing only full loads in clothes and dishwashers; using spring-loaded nozzles on garden hoses; and identifying and repairing all water leaks.

**B. Stage II Water Shortage - Level A & Level B Warning**

All customers are expected to reduce their water use by 10% in comparison to their previous month's water bill. In addition to continuing to encourage all voluntary reduction actions, the following restrictions apply: Outdoor use of drinking water for washing impervious surfaces is prohibited; and all testing and training purposes requiring drinking water (e.g. fire protection) will be limited.

**C. Stage III Water Shortage-Danger Mandatory Water Restriction**

Customers must continue actions from all previous stages and further reduce water use by 20% compared to their previous month's water bill. All non-essential uses of drinking water are banned and garden and landscape irrigation must be reduced to the minimum amount necessary for survival.

**D. Stage IV Water Shortage-Emergency Mandatory Water Restriction**

Customers must continue all actions from previous stages and further reduce their water use by 25% compared to their previous month's water bill. A ban on all use of drinking water except to protect public health and safety is implemented.

**E. Stage V Water Shortage-Crisis Mandatory Water Restriction**

All customers are only permitted to use water at the minimum required for public health protection. Firefighting is the only allowable outdoor water use.

**IV. Triggers**

The following measurements of well pumping times and well levels in relationship to pump intake levels trigger entry into corresponding water restriction stages based on the City of Laurinburg's groundwater source.

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Well Operating Conditions</b>
I	Pumping Time >10 hrs 20% reduction in seasonal normal distance from static water level and pump intake 20% increase pumping time for same output
II	Pumping Time >12 hrs

	40% reduction in distance from static water level and pump intake 40% increase pumping time for same output
III	Pumping Time >14 hrs 60% reduction in distance from static water level and pump intake 60% increase pumping time for same output
IV	Pumping Time >20 hrs 80% reduction in distance from static water level and pump intake
V	Water level at pump intake elevation

## V. Enforcement

The provisions of the water shortage response plan will be enforced by Scotland County Administrative staff and Sheriff's Department. Violators may be reported to the City of Laurinburg's dedicated water conservation hotline or the e-mail contact listed on the County's website. Citations are assessed according to the following schedule depending on the number of prior violations and current level of water shortage.

<b>Water Shortage Level</b>	<b>First Violation</b>	<b>Second Violation</b>	<b>Third Violation</b>
Voluntary Reductions	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mandatory Reductions (Stages II and III)	Warning	\$100	\$200
Emergency Reductions	Warning	\$100	\$200
Water Rationing	Warning	\$100	\$200

Upon a fourth violation of this division a criminal warrant shall be issued to the offending person. Any violations of the provisions of this division shall constitute a class 4 misdemeanor punishable upon conviction by a term of imprisonment of up to 20 days and by a fine not exceeding a maximum of \$500.00 as provided by G.S. 14-4 and in addition thereto such violation may be enjoined and restrained as provided in G.S. 160A-175. The issuing of a criminal warrant shall not prohibit the imposition of further civil penalties.

Discontinuation of Service-Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes, service may be temporarily discontinued for willful disregard of this division and a \$55.00 reconnection fee may be imposed before restoration of service. In the event of continued non-compliance with this division, the removal of meter shall be deemed proper and service shall be discontinued and all tap fees and deposits forfeited. Reconnection shall only be made upon payment of current due amounts, and new tap fees and deposits shall be paid.

## VI. Public Comment

Customers will have multiple opportunities to comment on the provisions of the water shortage response plan. First, a draft plan will be published on the Scotland County website. A public

hearing will be scheduled with notice printed in all customer water bills to collect comments on the draft. All subsequent revisions to the draft plan will be published at least 30 days prior to an adoption vote by Scotland County Board of Commissioners.

## VII. Variance Protocols

Applications for water use variance requests are available from the Scotland County website. A decision to approve or deny individual variance requests will be determined within two weeks of submittal after careful consideration of the following criteria: impact on water demand, expected duration, alternative source options, social and economic importance, purpose (i.e. necessary use of drinking water) and the prevention of structural damage.

## VIII. Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the Scotland County (North) water shortage response plan will be determined by comparing the stated water conservation goals with observed water use reduction data. Other factors to be considered include frequency of plan activation, any problem periods without activation, total number of violation citations, desired reductions attained and evaluation of demand reductions compared to the previous year's seasonal data.

## IX. 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 in conjunction with the updating of our Local Water Supply Plan. Further, a water shortage response planning work group will review procedures following each emergency or rationing stage to recommend any necessary improvements to the plan to Scotland County Board of Commissioners. Scotland County Administrative staff are responsible for initiating all subsequent revisions.