

April 3, 2008

Re: Stage 3 Mandatory Water Restrictions

Beginning this weekend Lancaster County Water and Sewer District Customers (LCWSD) may water lawns one day per week. "Latest drought update and continued reports of improving water supplies along the Catawba River have allowed us to reduce restrictions," said Mark Knight, Manager

Effective at 12:01 a. m. Saturday, April 5, the amended restrictions for all LCWSD customers are as follows:

Lawn watering, including the operation of a sprinkler system, is permitted one day per week.

- ❖ **Customers with odd-numbered addresses may water lawns on Saturdays.**
- ❖ **Customers with even-numbered addresses may water lawns on Sundays.**
- ❖ **Watering day ends at midnight.**

ALL OTHER RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT- residential car washing, refilling of empty pools and operation of ornamental fountains are still prohibited.

The amended restriction on lawn-watering follows Duke Energy's drought and water supply update. Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group (DMAG) has issued a release stating that all members agree allowing one day per week of lawn watering would be appropriate. The DMAG includes nearly 2 dozen community water systems and other significant water users between Lenoir, N.C. and Camden, S.C. Duke Energy confirmed lake levels are in a relatively good shape for the time being, the U.S. Drought Monitor status has improved slightly and stream flows are looking better. Allowing one day per week of lawn watering is permissible within the regional drought response plan's Stage 3 restriction guidelines.

"Our situation is much improved but conservation is still critical," Knight said. "We remain in the same stage of drought, but improved lake levels, Drought Monitor and stream flows is enough to ease restrictions for now and remain consistent with our Drought Response Plan". "We may very well have to increase restrictions again later depending on the weather."

LCWSD customers are to be commended for their conservation efforts and should continue to abide by all other stage three restrictions. Details and conservation tips are available at www.lcwasd.org. Customers may also contact LCWSD's business office at 803.285.6919 or 800.832.2126.

Mandatory Conservation Restrictions for Stage 3 are:

Mandatory restrictions on the use of water supplied by the District for activities including:

- I. Eliminate the washing down of sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts and other hard surfaced areas;
- II. Eliminate the washing down of exterior surfaces of buildings except for immediate fire protection, health and safety reasons and cleaning preparation for painting and to complete construction;
- III. Eliminate the flushing of gutters;
- IV. Eliminate domestic washing of motorbikes, boats, vehicles, etc.;
- V. Eliminate the use of water to maintain fountains, reflection ponds and decorative water bodies for aesthetic or scenic purposes, except where necessary to support aquatic life;
- VI. Eliminate filling empty pools; topping off or maintaining public or private swimming pools is allowed;
- VII. Eliminate obtaining water from fire hydrants for construction purposes, fire drills or any purpose other than fire-fighting or flushing necessary to maintain water quality; and

Limit use of water by commercial and individual customers including, but not limited to, the following:

- I. Stop serving water in addition to another beverage routinely in restaurants;
- II. Stop maintaining water levels in scenic and recreational ponds and lakes, except for the minimum amount required to support aquatic life;
- III. Limit irrigating golf courses and any portion of its grounds;

- IV. Cease water service to customers who have been given a 10-day notice to repair one or more leaks and have failed to do so; and
- V. Limit expanding commercial nursery facilities, placing new irrigated agricultural land in production or planting or landscaping when required by site design review process.
- VI. LCWSD will intensify maintenance efforts to identify and correct water leaks in the distribution system.
- VII. Continue to cease installation of new irrigation taps on the water system.

Allowable Uses

Allowable uses include:

Commercial uses of water (commercial car wash operations and plant nurseries).

Use of drip irrigation, soaker hoses, hand-held hoses with spring loaded nozzles, and hand-held watering containers will still be permitted.

Animal and livestock watering.

Enforcement of Restrictions

If any customer of LCWSD fails to comply with the mandatory water use restrictions, the customer shall be given a written notice of such failure to comply, which cites the date of said violation, and shall be assessed surcharges in accordance with the following schedule:

- First violation** - Written Warning
- Second violation** - \$100.00 surcharge shall be added to the customer's water bill;
- Third violation** - an additional \$100.00 surcharge shall be added to the customer's water bill;
- Fourth violation** - the customer's water service shall be terminated and restored only after payment of a surcharge of \$500.00 in addition to all previously assessed surcharges and usage.

Designated LCWSD employees, law enforcement agencies, and other authorized agencies in the respective jurisdiction which is being supplied water by LCWSD shall diligently enforce the provisions of the mandatory restrictions beginning Saturday, April 5th at midnight. Lawn and landscape irrigation will be monitored closely because they continue to be the leading source of water waste. The intent is not to see how many tickets, fines, or disconnects can be issued, but to reduce water use.

According to Knight, even though LCWSD users have responded well and exceeded the initial goal of a 10% reduction, the lingering drought conditions require additional reductions.

“We will continue our efforts to reduce water consumption by intensifying maintenance efforts to identify and correct water leaks in the distribution system, reducing hydrant flushing whenever possible while maintaining public health and safety, ceasing to install new irrigation taps on the water system, and continuing to encourage and educate customers to comply with water conservation measurers,” said Knight.

For more information about lake levels visit www.duke-energy.com