

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

2007 DROUGHT AND BURN BAN SITUATION REPORT # 5 21 November 2007, 1100 Hours

New Information in Bold Italic Type

SUMMARY

Statewide precipitation for the previous water year (1 October 2006 through 30 September 2007) was below normal. Despite recent precipitation, exceptional drought conditions persist in portions of southwest Virginia.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Routine status and is operating with normal staff.

State of Emergency: Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a Statewide Emergency on 18 October 2007 and imposed a statewide ban on all open burning. The statewide ban on open burning was lifted by Governor Timothy M. Kaine on 15 November. The Statewide Emergency remains in effect to deal with potential or actual drought related issues. The Governor has directed State Agencies to provide assistance in dealing with potential or actual drought related issues.

Governor Kaine requested that the Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture declare Virginia a statewide disaster area due to reductions in farm production caused by drought and high temperatures in 2007. The Acting US Secretary of Agriculture designated 78 additional counties and 34 independent cities as primary natural disaster areas on 18 October 2007 due to reductions in farm production caused by drought and high temperatures that occurred from January 1, 2007, and continuing.

Governor Kaine held a Press Conference on 30 October and urged localities to update water conservation and drought contingency ordinances and plans and begin preparations to implement those plans. The Governor also encouraged citizens and businesses to strictly follow all calls for water conservation issued by public waterworks or local governments. [Governor's News Release](#)

Executive Order: [Executive Order 57 \(2007\)](#)

WEATHER FORECAST

Wednesday, 21 Nov: Mostly sunny; chance of showers/thunderstorms Southwest VA this afternoon and evening; high temperatures will range upper 60's to upper 70's; southwest winds 5-10 mph with gusts up to 20 mph in Southwest VA. Wednesday night: Cloudy; chance of showers/thunderstorms for most of the Commonwealth; low temperatures will range low to upper 50's; south-southwest winds 5-15 mph with gusts up to 20 mph in Southwest VA. Thursday, 22 Nov: Cloudy; chance of showers/thunderstorms for entire state; high temperatures will range mid 50's to mid 70's with temperatures falling rapidly in Southwest VA to upper 30's; west winds 10-20 mph with gusts up to 25 mph in Southwest VA. Thursday night: Cloudy; chance of rain/snow showers in Southwest VA; low temperatures will range low to upper 30's; north-northwest winds 5-15.

OPERATIONS SECTION

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ESF 5 – Emergency Management: Posting event related items to WebEOC under event titled “WebEOC, 2007-10 Drought and Burn Ban”; Participating as member of the Drought Monitoring Task Force; monitoring weather, river flow and precipitation reports; assessing the impact across the Commonwealth

State Warning Point: Normal operations

Local Liaison: VDEM Regional Coordinators are monitoring drought impacts to localities in their region. VDEM Region Four Coordinator in contact with Wise County and Town of Appalachia officials reference water supply issue and in contact with Scott County and Town of Dungannon officials reference a water infrastructure issue.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical Services: Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water met with the Town of Appalachia Town Manager and Town Engineer on 23 October to discuss options to maintain water service to customers of the town waterworks. Virginia Department of Health and Office of Drinking Water continue to monitor and stand by for consultation and coordination.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources: Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services reported that all counties and independent cities in the Commonwealth have been designated primary disaster areas with the exception of the counties of Arlington and York and the independent cities of Alexandria, Bristol, Falls Church, Norton and Poquoson. These localities have been designated contiguous disaster areas. All Virginia localities have access to federal drought disaster assistance. ***According to the USDA crop weather report for the week ending November 11, 2007, colder temperatures have begun to set in across the Commonwealth as producers try to harvest the last of the soybeans and cotton. Pastures and hayfields attempted to revive themselves since the increase in soil moisture but killing frosts have prevented significant re-growth. Livestock were able to take advantage of the re-growth in pastures, which reduced the need for supplemental feeding.*** [VDACS Drought Related Information](#); [VDACS Hay Clearing House](#); [Crop Status Report](#)

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries reports that that precipitation in late October increased stream flows in the western part of the state so that all October trout stockings could occur. November stockings are in progress but streamflows continue to decrease. Lake levels are still low in many areas and boat launching may not be possible at some ramps.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 3 – Public Works & Engineering: The Virginia Department of Health has not reported any impacts to public water supplies that have compromised their ability to provide the needs of their customers; **64** systems have initiated water conservation measures; **27** mandatory water conservation requirements and **37** voluntary water conservation requirements.

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued the Town of Appalachia an Emergency Virginia Water Permit to withdraw 500,000 gallons per day from the Powell River and pump it to their reservoir. The permit is valid for one year, however, if mandatory water conservation measures cease, the permit is invalid.

Drought conditions have improved slightly over the Commonwealth during the last month due to one significant rainfall event in late October. Drought conditions have

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intensified slightly during the first two weeks of November and are likely to intensify further absent additional precipitation. Exceptional drought conditions persist in portions of southwest Virginia. The latest NOAA drought monitor indicates the occurrence of drought conditions throughout the majority of the Commonwealth.

Seven day average streamflows for November 18 in the majority of the Commonwealth are below normal with some areas in south central Virginia in the range of flows indicative of moderate hydrologic drought. Stream flows reacted positively to precipitation events in late October and early November but will continue to decline without additional precipitation. While drought monitoring ground water levels data is scarce, ground water levels are generally in the lower range of expected water levels in areas east of Route 95 and are generally lower than normal in the area west of Route 95. Six dedicated drought monitoring wells are at levels indicative of moderate hydrologic drought and four are at levels indicative of severe hydrologic drought. Precipitation in late October and early November has increased or stabilized levels of large reservoirs such as Lake Moomaw, Smith Mountain Lake, Kerr Reservoir, and Philpott.

Waterworks are encouraged to develop water conservation and contingency plans and local governments are encouraged to adopt local water conservation ordinances. [DEQ Water Conservation Tips](#): [US Drought Monitor - VA](#): [US Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

DEQ chairs the Drought Monitoring Task Force and is conducting bi-weekly conference calls to monitor the drought impact and issues a monthly drought report. [DMTF Report November 2007](#)

PLANNING SECTION

Situation/Documentation Unit: Preparing and distributing weekly Situation Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness. ***Next Situation Report will be issued Thursday, 29 November 2007.***

Mapping/GIS Unit: Providing maps and graphics related to drought and burn ban.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Wise County declared a local emergency on 31 October due to drought conditions that have caused a severe raw water supply shortage to retail water customers in Wise County. The Mayor and Town Council of Appalachia, Wise County, declared a water emergency and implemented conservation measures and prohibited non-essential water usage. ***The Emergency Virginia Water Permit submitted by the town was issued by the VA Department of Environmental Quality and is valid for one year, however, if mandatory water conservation measures cease, the permit is invalid.***

The Town of Dungannon and Scott County declared a local emergency on 9 November due to a water infrastructure issue involving the Town of Dungannon water system. The town is having problems keeping their water storage tank filled and believes they have a major leak in the system which supplies approximately 700 people. ***Water department personnel, assisted by VA Rural Water Association detected a leak at 1800 hours 20 November at the main line from the filter plant to the storage tank; crews will begin work on it 21 November. 11.5 feet of water is in the town's storage tank, which holds 39 feet when full. Water service has been restored throughout the system; the boil notice remains in effect. Scott County Emergency Management is assisting town officials with procurement and distribution of bottled water to impacted citizens. Three truck loads of 1 gallon jugs of water have been purchased by Scott County and are being distributed daily at the Town Hall. A fourth truck load of water scheduled for delivery on 21 November was cancelled after Town officials determined that the eleven skids of water on hand in Dungannon would be enough to last until 26 November. Scott County submitted request to VDEM/VEOC on 16 November for***

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water tanker to haul water from Scott County Public Service Authority in Weber City to Dungannon. VA Department of Corrections was tasked with mission and provided water tanker with driver on 17 November. The VA Department of Corrections water tanker arrived in Dungannon on 19 November and remains at the First Baptist Church in Dungannon connected to the Baptist Relief Association mobile shower/laundry trailer; the VA Department of Corrections truck driver returned to his home base on 20 November. VDEM/VEOC is coordinating request for a second water tanker to provide potable water to citizens and investigating cost of camera unit for robotic investigation of the water system. VDEM/VEOC is assessing request received from Scott County Emergency Management on 20 November that they have approached the limit on the "emergency funds" for purchasing water for Dungannon and are beyond their ability to fund additional potable water and wanted to know if there is any other help available at the state level. At the request of Scott County Emergency Management, Scott County Sheriff's Office has increased patrols in the community.

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