

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

## Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

### 2007 DROUGHT AND BURN BAN SITUATION REPORT # 9 20 December 2007, 1400 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.

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 sent a letter to all localities dated 29 November 2007 advising them that the most effective water restrictions are those developed at the local level and asked that localities review their drought water conservation and contingency plans associated with public waterworks and if there was no current drought plan, one should be developed. Governor Kaine also asked localities to review their local ordinances requiring mandatory non-essential water use restrictions during declared emergencies and assure that the ordinances are consistent with the Virginia Drought Assessment and Response Plan and if the locality has not adopted such ordinances, they should consider the development and adoption of these. DEQ – [COV Drought Response Plan](#)

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

#### WEATHER FORECAST

**Thursday, 20 Dec: Mostly sunny; high temperatures will range mid 40's to low 50's; winds will be light and variable. Thursday night: Mostly cloudy; 80% chance of rain showers in Southwest and West Central VA; low temperatures will range mid 20's to upper 30s; winds will be southeast 5 to 10 MPH. Friday, 21 Dec: Mostly cloudy; 40% chance of rain in Southwest and West Central VA; high temperatures will range low 40's to low 50's; winds will be southeast 5 to 10 MPH. Friday night: Mostly cloudy; low temperatures will range mid 30's to upper 30's; winds will be light and variable.**

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### OPERATIONS SECTION

**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; limited exemption of hours worked for hay and feed carriers was extended until 0600 hours, 15 April 2008.

**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 Scott County and Town of Dungannon officials reference a water infrastructure issue and ***monitoring a possible water shortage issue in Lee County.***

### EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

**ESF 4 – Firefighting:** Even though the Statewide Ban on Open Burning has been lifted, VA Department of Forestry advises that several localities have implemented their own ban on burning and residents should check with their locality prior to conducting any open burning. [Local Burn Ban Restrictions](#)

**ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical Services:** 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 Virginia localities have access to federal drought disaster assistance. [VDACS Drought Related Information](#); [VDACS Hay Clearing House](#); [Crop Status Report](#)

### INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

**ESF 1 – Transportation:** The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles jointly authorized a temporary waiver of registration and license requirements along with normal weight and width restrictions for the purpose of ensuring essential emergency relief supplies reach the disaster area in a timely manner. This waiver pertains only to statewide shippers and carriers of hay and feed products being delivered within the Commonwealth of Virginia and is effective until 0600 hours, 15 April 2008. Loads are restricted to a maximum 12 feet wide provided they follow the hauling permit regulations and safety guidelines as published in the Virginia Hauling Permit Manual.

**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. ***Status has not changed in terms of conditions and there have been some improvements in the south-central and south-east areas; 60*** systems have initiated water conservation measures; 29 mandatory water conservation requirements and **31** 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.

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There has been virtually no change in drought conditions across the Commonwealth during the past week. All precipitation outlooks indicate the potential for below normal precipitation through February 2008. Based on seasonably low water usage and environmental demands it is likely that conditions will remain stable through the first of the year. Exceptional to extreme drought conditions persist in southwest Virginia.

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, 27 December 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 along with Wise County declared a water emergency and implemented conservation measures and prohibited non-essential water usage. The Emergency Virginia Water Permit 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 believes they have a major leak in the system which supplies approximately 700 people. Leak detection operations continue; prior repair of leaks have allowed the system to hold its own. Distribution of bottled water has been limited to those without water or who have special medical needs. The boil water notice remains in effect and water service is available to all customers at all elevations. ***The water tank currently holds 23.5 feet of water and has a capacity of 39 feet.***

***Lee County reported to the VDEM Region 4 Coordinator that at their current rate of water usage they would be out of water within 30 days. Lee County has not declared a local emergency and has not requested any official assistance at this time. The intake pipe at KVS Quarry needs to be relocated to deeper water. VDEM Recovery and Mitigation is assisting with contacts for possible funding sources to provide financial assistance in relocation of the intake pipe. Lee County has a contract with the Arthur-Shawnee System in Tennessee as an alternate source of water.***

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