



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2017-05

WHEREAS, under the Water Supply Management Act (Act), N.J.S.A. 58:1A-1 *et seq.*, and the Water Supply Allocation Permits rules at N.J.A.C. 7:19, adopted pursuant thereto, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is responsible for managing the water resources of the State as public assets held in trust for all citizens and is authorized to manage the State's water supply and to plan for and respond to water supply emergencies, including drought; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 7:19-13.1(d) provides that the Department may call for specific action to reduce the possibility or lessen the impact of an impending water shortage; and

WHEREAS, from March through October 2016, precipitation measured 25-50 percent below average in the northern and central regions; and

WHEREAS, as of October 2016, sustained stream flows measured as low as 10 percent of the long term mean flow in the northern portions of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, as of October 2016, combined reservoir storage in the State's northeastern, central, and coastal north regions were between 13 and 25 percent below average; and

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2016, due to degraded water supply conditions, the Department issued a drought watch for the counties of Bergen, Essex, Hunterdon, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren; and

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2016, the Department expanded the drought watch to include the counties of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Monmouth, Ocean, and Salem; and

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2016, due to the continued degradation of water supply conditions, the Department issued Administrative Order 2016-10, establishing a drought warning for the counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren; and

WHEREAS, in attempt to increase and preserve storage in certain key reservoirs located within the drought warning areas, as part of the Administrative Order 2016-10, the Department modified nineteen water allocation permitted passing flows by lowering minimum flow and reservoir release requirements; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to preserve storage in reservoirs owned and operated by North Jersey District Water Supply Commission and Suez New Jersey, located within the drought warning areas, Administrative Order 2016-10 directed water transfers between key northeast purveyors; and

WHEREAS, between winter 2016 and spring 2017, the State experienced a return to more average rainfall, which contributed significantly to a reduction in the precipitation deficit seen through much of the spring, summer, and fall of 2016, restoration of more normal stream flows, and replenishment of water supply storage in critical northeastern and coastal north New Jersey reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, due to the replenishment of the northeastern New Jersey reservoirs, on February 7, 2017, the Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources Management, pursuant to his delegated authority, issued a directive lifting the water transfers directed by Administrative Order 2016-10; and

WHEREAS, reservoir storage in the State's central region continues to be below the long-term average (i.e., between 20 – 25 percent below normal).

NOW, THEREFORE, I HEREBY DECLARE, AUTHORIZE, DESIGNATE and DIRECT the following actions to be taken, in accordance with the Water Supply Allocation Permits rules, N.J.A.C. 7:19, and in coordination with affected parties, which shall supersede Administrative Order No. 2016-10.

1. Drought Warning Termination: The Drought Warning declaration for the following counties within the State of New Jersey is hereby terminated: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Sussex, Union and Warren. Passing flows and reservoir releases for these counties are restored.
2. Drought Watch Termination: The Drought Watch declaration for the following counties within the State of New Jersey is hereby terminated: Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem.
3. Drought Warning Designation: The following counties within the State of New Jersey shall remain designated to be in a "Drought Warning" condition due to the continued storage deficit associated with reservoirs within the New Jersey Water Supply Authority's Raritan Basin: Hunterdon and Somerset.
4. Continued modifications of regulated stream passing flow requirements and reservoir releases
Modified passing flow requirements and reservoir releases are designed to increase and preserve storage in affected reservoir systems. These steps are deemed necessary to extend the water supply sources of the State to meet existing and future demands for potable water, and to reduce the possibility of a water supply emergency in the future. Modified passing flow requirements and reservoir releases are as follows:

Regulated Reservoir Releases – Reducing required reservoir releases has the effect of preserving water stored in reservoirs

Location	Current Permitted Passing Flow (MGD/CFS)	Modified (MGD/CFS)	Water Allocation Permit Reference
Spruce Run Reservoir	5/7.7	1.7/2.6	#4007PS

Regulated Stream/River Passing Flows/Pumped-Storage Reservoirs – Reduced passing flows allow more water to be withdrawn from streams for reservoir storage and drinking water purposes

Location	Current Permitted Passing Flow (MGD/CFS)	Modified (MGD/CFS)	Water Allocation Permit Reference
Raritan River @ Stanton	40/62	21.5/33.3	#4007PS #4008PS
Raritan River @ Manville	70/108.3	50/77.4	
Raritan River @ Bound Brook	90/139.5	50/77.4*	

MGD = million gallons per day

CFS = cubic feet per second

*revised from 70/108.3 by directive on January 7, 2017

5. All residents, businesses, and institutions in the State of New Jersey are encouraged to continue to use water sparingly. (More information on the Drought Warning and affected areas is available at www.njdrought.org).

I HEREBY DESIGNATE the Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources Management to act on my behalf in the implementation and modification of drought warning requirements, as provided under N.J.A.C. 7:19, during the pendency of the drought warning in the designated areas. This order shall take effect immediately.

Date

4/12/2017

Bob Martin, Commissioner