

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

IN THE MATTER OF: Consideration of Drought Warning Designation Due to Long-term Precipitation Deficit, and Depleted Reservoir Storage, Ground Water Levels and Stream Flows.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, DIVISION OF WATER SUPPLY AND GEOSCIENCE, WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, TRENTON, NEW JERSEY. In accordance with the Water Supply Management Act (N.J.S.A. 58:1A-1 et seq.) and the Water Supply Allocation Permits rules adopted pursuant thereto at N.J.A.C. 7:19-1 et seq., the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has determined that the potential for development of a critical water supply situation exists in the following counties: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, and Union.

This determination is based upon a relative lack of precipitation, below-normal storage in water supply reservoirs, and depleted stream flow and ground water levels. On July 25, 2016, a Drought Watch was issued for twelve northern New Jersey counties – Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren.

In the event that water supply conditions do not improve or worsen, the NJDEP may designate a Drought Warning condition for a portion of or the entire State in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:19-13.1(d). During a Drought Warning, the NJDEP may exercise its non-emergency powers and call for action to be taken by water suppliers to avoid or lessen the impact of a potential water emergency. Cooperation by the public and all water users to use water sparingly is also strongly encouraged.

Before ordering implementation of any of the Drought Warning requirements in N.J.A.C. 7:19-11.6, the NJDEP must provide notice of and hold a public hearing. At the public hearing, the Department will receive input concerning the severity of the situation, its impact on regional water supplies, and available management options.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a public hearing has been scheduled for October 20, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., in the Millburn Free Public Library auditorium, located at 200 Glen Avenue in Millburn, New Jersey, to afford the public an opportunity to be heard on this matter. The public hearing will be held before a Hearing Officer of the NJDEP. Although not required, interested persons may be represented by counsel. In response to this Notice, any person may submit written comments by October 20, 2016, to: Joseph Mattle, Mail Code 401-04Q, NJDEP\Water Supply and Geoscience, PO Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420.