

Delaware River Basin Commission

Drought Management & Contingency Planning

- DRBC's Commissioners have expressed interest in reviewing the requirements associated with drought management plans during the water allocation process.
 - Public Water Supply Systems, Industrial and Commercial sectors
 - Four state agencies have agreed to present at June 18, 2026 WMAC mtg.
 - Different lead agencies in water allocation process (AAs / OPOP)
- Recent extreme dry weather conditions have resulted in heightened interest in drought operations.
- Agencies may have different methods, standards, goals, etc.

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DRBC Goals for Drought Management & Contingency Planning

1. It shall be the policy of the Commission that conservation measures in the Basin designed for implementation during drought periods shall be based upon the objective of reducing overall depletive use of fresh water by 15 percent. (Section 2.1.4 Water Code; Res 83-14)
2. For the purposes of drought management, the Water Code currently provides that the Commission will give first priority to those uses which sustain human life, health and safety, and second priority to water needed to sustain livestock. Thereafter, based on the doctrine of equitable apportionment, the remaining water will be allocated among producers of goods and services, food and fibers, and environmental quality in a manner designed to sustain the general welfare of the basin and its employment at the highest practical level. (Section 2.5.2 Water Code; Res. 76-18)