

Reading Area Water Authority



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NORTH HEIDELBERG WATER SYSTEM

Drought Emergency

MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION NOTICE

The Reading Area Water Authority is requiring mandatory water restrictions for the
NORTH HEIDELBERG WATER SYSTEM.

Due to a lack of recent rainfall, the System's well water levels are very low.

We are requiring that consumers reduce usage by 15% until this notice is lifted.

The following water uses are considered nonessential and should be curtailed during this notice.

Prohibited Water Uses

- 1) The use of any water for watering of grass, except:
 - (i) Water may be applied to grass areas approved prior to or during the emergency as part of a sewage or storm water treatment system utilizing spray irrigation which system was approved in a permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection prior to the drought emergency proclamation.
 - (ii) Water may be used, in a manner that ensures effective conservation, to implement revegetation following earthmoving, where revegetation is required under an erosion and sediment control plan adopted under state law or regulation. Revegetation use shall comply with applicable best conservation management practices for revegetation prescribed by the Department of Environmental Protection and county conservation districts.
- 2) The use of any water for watering athletic fields, except:

- (i) Water may be applied to athletic field grass areas approved prior to or during the emergency as part of a sewage or stormwater treatment system utilizing spray irrigation, which system was approved in a permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection prior to the drought emergency proclamation.
 - (ii) Water may be applied to athletic field non grass areas to control dust during an athletic event, by means and in a manner.
- 3) The use of fresh water for irrigation and watering of outdoor gardens, landscaped areas, trees, shrubs and other outdoor plants except that fresh water may be used:
 - (i) For irrigation for the production of food and fiber and the maintenance of livestock and poultry.
 - (ii) By nurseries to maintain stock, by a means that ensures effective conservation, only to the extent that sources of water other than fresh water adequate to supply needs are not available or feasible to use.
 - (iii) By public gardens of National, State or regional significance or arboretums to preserve specimens, by a means that ensures effective conservation, only to the extent that sources of water other than freshwater adequate to supply needs are not available or feasible to use.
- (iv) In a manner that ensures effective conservation, to implement revegetation following earth moving, where revegetation is required under an approved erosion and sediment control plan adopted under state law or regulation, to the extent that sources of water, other than fresh water, adequate to supply needs are not available or feasible to use. Revegetation use shall comply with applicable best conservation management practices for revegetation prescribed by the Department of Environmental Protection and county conservation districts.
- 4) The use of any water for washing paved surfaces, except water may be used:
 - (i) At the minimum rate necessary for sanitation of the premises of raw or processed food, pharmaceutical or vaccine processing, storage or vending establishments, including restaurants and grocery stores.
 - (ii) At the minimum rate necessary for the sanitation of the premises of waste handling, storage and disposal facilities.

- (iii) At the minimum rate necessary to comply with permit conditions or other regulatory requirements.
- 5) The use of any water for ornamental purposes, including fountains, artificial waterfalls and reflecting pools, except:
 - (i) Fountains or waterfalls may be operated to perform the primary and necessary aeration function for a pond that supports fish life.
 - (ii) Water may be used to top off ornamental water gardens or fish ponds to the minimum extent necessary to maintain fish and aquatic life.
- 6) The use of any water for ornamental purposes, including fountains, artificial waterfalls and reflecting pools, except:
 - (i) Fountains or waterfalls may be operated to perform the primary and necessary aeration function for a pond that supports fish life.
 - (ii) Water may be used to top off ornamental water gardens or fish ponds to the minimum extent necessary to maintain fish and aquatic life.
- 7) The serving of water in restaurants, clubs or eating places, unless specifically requested by the individual.
- 8) The use of any water to fill and top off swimming pools, except that water may be used to fill and top off swimming pools operated by health care facilities used in relation to patient care and rehabilitation.
- 9) The use of water from a fire hydrant except for firefighting; or line flushing only when needed to protect public health and safety.
- 10) The use of any water that is not for a beneficial use.

Clarifications

Water Use Restrictions for Residential Users

(a) Metered Residential Water Customers and Allotments

(1) The number of permanent residents in each dwelling unit (household) will determine the amount of water that each household will be allowed.

(2) Each dwelling unit (household) shall be allotted 33 gallons per day for each resident of the household. Households with only one permanent resident will have a daily allotment of 33 gallons.

(3) Residential water customers are required to provide RAWA personnel with reasonable access to read meters as necessary to implement this Plan. Where access is not readily available, RAWA shall make all reasonable efforts to contact customers in order to arrange for access to read meters. In the event a water customer does not allow RAWA personnel entry to read the meter, after RAWA has made reasonable efforts to arrange for such access, the dwelling unit (household) allotment will be reduced to 30 gallons per day.

(b) Non-Metered Residential Water Customers and Allotments

(1) In order to effectively implement and monitor the residential water conservation effort, a water allotment shall be established for the entire water system based on 33 gallons per day per capita served or percent of the water used by the entire system during the 12-month average, less 15% , whichever is greater. (e.g. same quarter of the preceding year)

(2) RAWA will establish a communication system with the customers through public media to inform customers of the requirements of the Governor's Proclamation and this Local Water Rationing Plan; possible conservation measures that customers may employ; the system allotment; and a daily report of whether the usage was within the allotment.

(c) Metered and Non-Metered Residential Customers of the Same Water Supply System

(1) Where a water supply system serves both metered and non-metered residential customers, the allotments and procedures provided under both subsections (a) and (b) shall be applied, as appropriate.

(d) Variances and Exceptions

(1) Where the residential water allotment provided under this section would create extraordinary hardship, as in the case of special health related requirements, the water customer may apply to RAWA for an exemption or variance from these requirements. If RAWA finds that the allotment provided in this section would impose extraordinary hardship, RAWA may establish a revised allotment for the particular customer. For these purposes, an "extraordinary hardship" means a permanent damage to property or economic loss which is substantially more severe than the sacrifices borne by other water users subject to this Local Water Rationing Plan.

(2) Any person aggrieved by a decision relating to such an exemption or variance rendered by a public utility or municipal corporation rendering water service beyond its corporate limits may file a complaint with the Public Utility Commission in accordance with the procedures established under the Public Utility Code.

(3) Any person aggrieved by a decision relating to such an exemption or variance rendered RAWA not under the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission may file an appeal with the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator who shall render a final decision.

Water Use Restrictions for Non-Residential Water Customers

(a) Non-residential customers include commercial, industrial, institutional, public, and all other users, with the exception of hospitals and health care facilities.

(b) Non-residential water customers shall reduce their water usage by a minimum of 15 percent of use levels for the 12-month average, less 15% .

(e.g. same quarter of the preceding year)

(c) It is the primary responsibility of each non-residential water customer to meet its mandated water use reduction goal in whatever manner possible.

(d) RAWA will establish a water allotment for each non-residential water customer, based upon a required 15 percent reduction of water usage from the rate of water used by the customer in the 12-month average, less 15%. (e.g. same quarter of the preceding year) or the last recorded use level if no meter readings record the rate of the customer's use in the same quarter of the preceding year.

(e) Each non-residential water user shall provide access to RAWA personnel for purposes of meter reading and monitoring of compliance with this Plan. RAWA shall make all reasonable efforts to contact customers to arrange for access.

(f) Variances and Exceptions

(1) If the mandated 15 percent reduction in water usage cannot be obtained without imposing extraordinary hardship threatening health and safety, the non-residential customer may apply to RAWA who provides the customers' service for a variance. For these purposes, "extraordinary hardship" means a permanent damage to property or economic loss which is substantially more severe than the sacrifices borne by other water users subject to this Local Water Rationing Plan. If RAWA finds that the 15 percent reduction would cause extraordinary hardship or threaten health or safety, RAWA may grant a variance and establish a revised water use reduction requirement for the particular customer.

(2) Any person aggrieved by a decision relating to such a variance rendered by a public utility or municipal corporation rendering water service beyond its corporate limits may file a complaint with the Public Utility Commission in accordance with the procedures established in the Public Utility Code.

(3) Any person aggrieved by a decision relating to such a variance rendered by RAWA not subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission may appeal the decision to the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator who shall render a final decision.

Water Use Restrictions for Hospitals and Health Care Facilities

(a) Hospitals and health care facilities shall comply with all restrictions imposed on residential and non-residential water customers as may be applicable to each individual institution, to the extent compliance will not endanger the health of the patients or residents of the institution.

(b) Each hospital and health care facility shall survey its water usage patterns and requirements and implement such additional conservation measures as may be possible without endangering the health of patients or residents to achieve a 15 percent reduction in the institution's water usage.

Enforcement of the Plan

(a) RAWA will have lead responsibility for monitoring of compliance with this Local Water Rationing Plan.

(b) RAWA is authorized to alter meter reading schedules to assure adequate monitoring of compliance with this Plan.

(c) RAWA shall institute procedures to closely monitor supplies and current usage to determine if reductions are being attained consistent with the target figures established in the Plan. RAWA shall establish a mechanism to advise the water users of the effects of rationing.

(d) Proper law enforcement authorities and private citizens have additional enforcement responsibilities and rights as specified in Section 14 of this Local Water Rationing Plan.

Service Interruptions

(a) Local Water Rationing Plans shall include provisions for implementation of temporary service interruptions if this action is necessary to achieve water use reductions to prevent a public water supply system from depleting its on hand water supply to the point that vital service demands including, but not limited to, public health and safety, firefighting, and use of health care facilities cannot be met.

(b) The following provisions shall govern the implementation of temporary service interruptions:

(1) In order to effectuate compliance with this Plan, RAWA is hereby authorized and required to plan and implement temporary service interruptions to all or part of its water supply system, as RAWA may deem appropriate, when any and/or all of the following conditions are determined by RAWA to exist, as to its water supply system:

(i) A 15 percent reduction in systemwide water usage has not been achieved, and/or

(ii) The 15 percent reduction in systemwide water usage has been achieved, but has failed to have a significant impact in extending limited water supplies, and/or

(iii) Temporary service interruptions are necessary in order to further extend limited and/or dwindling water supplies.

(2) In the event that RAWA determines that temporary service interruptions are necessary, RAWA shall notify its customers through the public media (newspapers, radio, telephone, and television) serving the customers of RAWA in its service territory, at least one day prior to the temporary service interruptions, that a planned, temporary service interruption is to be imposed. In addition, RAWA shall notify the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator, the local coordinator of emergency management, local public health authorities, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Bureau of Technical Utility Services, if RAWA is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. Such notice shall:

(i) State the day or days when the planned, temporary service interruptions will occur;

(ii) State the time(s) when such planned, temporary service interruptions will commence, and the time(s) such interruptions will cease;

(iii) State whether the planned, temporary service interruptions are to be imposed on the entire system, or a part thereof, and, if only part(s) of the system will experience planned, temporary service interruptions, identify the geographical boundaries within which the planned, temporary service interruptions will occur; and

(iv) Advise all customers within the areas affected by planned, temporary service interruptions how to treat any water received from the system, for human consumption, during the period(s) of planned, temporary service interruptions and for such additional time as may be necessary until full pressure is restored to the system.

(3) RAWA imposes planned, temporary service interruptions as authorized and required by this Plan, it must provide for the continued delivery of water to health care facilities within the area(s) affected by such interruptions, by means of any adequate, alternative delivery measures that may be necessary.

(4) RAWA implements planned, temporary service interruptions, it must make provision, by any means possible, for the continued delivery of such water, as may be necessary, for the proper operation of sewage collection, treatment and disposal systems and facilities.

Excess Use Charges

Any residential or non-residential water customer who exceeds the allotments established pursuant to this Local Water Rationing Plan will be subject to the following excess-use charge provisions:

- (a) RAWA is directed to collect an "excess-use charge" based on the amount by which a customer's use exceeds the water allotments established pursuant to the Local Water Rationing Plan, computed in accordance with the following schedule:

Excess Usage Per Month	Charge for Excess
First 2,000 gallons or portion thereof	1.15 Times the actual rate charged for water (no more than 5; range >1<5)
Each 1,000 gallons or portion thereof thereafter	1.20 Times the actual rate charged for water (no more than 10; range >1<10)

(b) Any monies collected by RAWA through excess use charges shall not be accounted for as income to RAWA, but shall be placed by RAWA in a reserve account. The disposition of funds placed in the reserve account shall be governed as follows:

(1) Funds collected by a public utility or a municipal corporation rendering services beyond its corporate limits shall be disposed of as directed by orders and procedures adopted by the Public Utility Commission.

(2) Funds collected by a municipal authority or a municipal corporation or other RAWA rendering services within its corporate limits shall be used to offset drought-related costs or expenses as directed by the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator.

(c) In addition to the excess use charge, non-compliance with the Local Water Rationing Plan will result in the following:

(1) For the first excess use, a warning of possible discontinuation shall be issued to the customer by RAWA.

(2) For the second or subsequent excess use, the water supplier may interrupt or shut off service to the customer for a period not to exceed 48 hours, or, if the customer provides access, the water supplier may install a flow restrictor in the customer's service line for the duration of the emergency. The cost incurred by RAWA to interrupt or shut off and reinstate service, or to install and remove a flow restrictor, shall be assessed to the water customer by RAWA.

(3) Penalties as provided for in Section 14 of this Plan.

(d) Any customer or other person aggrieved by a decision or action by RAWA imposing an excess use charge or other remedy for non-compliance with the requirements of this Plan may proceed in accordance with

the following provisions:

(1) RAWA shall adopt procedures which provide an opportunity for the customer or aggrieved party to rebut the finding of a violation or evidence of circumstances beyond the customer's control which resulted in the violation. RAWA shall keep a record of evidence presented regarding disputed violations, and shall provide the customer or aggrieved party with a written notice of RAWA's final decision and action in such cases.

(2) Any person aggrieved by the final decision or action of a public utility or municipal corporation rendering water service beyond its corporate limits may file a complaint with the Public Utility Commission in accordance with the procedures established under the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. §101 et seq.

(3) Any person aggrieved by the final decision or action of RAWA not subject to the Public Utility Commission may file an appeal with the Common Pleas Court in the county where the water service is provided, in accordance with the provisions and procedures of the Local Agency Law, 2 Pa. C.S. §§551-555, 751-754.

Penalties

Any person who violates the provisions of this Plan, who fails to carry out duties and responsibilities imposed by this Plan, or who impedes or interferes with any action undertaken or ordered pursuant to this Plan, shall be subject to the penalties provided by law under 35 Pa. C.S. §7707. Violation of any provision of this Chapter is a summary offense enforceable by law enforcement officers or private citizens in accordance with 4 Pa. Code §120.7 (relating to summary cases).

Savings Clause

Nothing in this Local Water Rationing Plan shall in any way limit or affect the power or authority of any political subdivision to adopt and enforce ordinances, rules, restrictions and orders for water conservation and protection of essential water supplies, provided that such ordinances, rules, restrictions and orders do not conflict with 4 Pa. Code Chapters 118, 119, and 120 (relating to reductions of major water use in a Commonwealth drought emergency area; prohibition of non-essential water uses in a Commonwealth drought emergency area; and Local Water Rationing Plans), river basin commission orders or plans and the requirements of this Plan.

We will inform you when the requested water use restrictions are lifted.

PLEASE TURN OVER THIS DOCUMENT FOR ADDITIONAL

CLARIFICATION ON WATER USE RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THIS

CONSERVATION PERIOD.

THIS NOTICE IS BEING SENT TO YOU BY READING AREA WATER AUTHORITY. Your kind consideration is appreciated.

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