



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Richard E. Dunn, Director

Watershed Protection Branch

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1152, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-463-1511

NOV 04 2016

Mr. Bob Downey
Haralson County Water Authority
P.O. Box 429
Buchanan, Georgia 30176

RE: Drought Response Variance Approval -- Drought Response Level Three Plus

Dear Mr. Downey:

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 12-5-7 and GA Rule 391-3-30-.08, the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has reviewed Haralson County Water Authority's (the Authority) request for a variance from the approved Drought Response Level Three to a more stringent Drought Response Level Three Plus in response to critically low water supply conditions, and the need to facilitate the continuation of safe water supply to your customers.

After evaluating the severity of the conditions in Haralson County, based on the information provided in the variance request letter dated October 28, 2016, the additional information the Authority has shared with EPD staff during a number of phone calls, and in consideration of the ongoing climatic and water supply conditions occurring within your area; EPD hereby approves Haralson County Water Authority request to implement the following two drought response strategies:

1. Request all restaurants and institutional establishments change to paper product for serving meals,
2. No watering of ball or recreational fields, except for watering-in of pesticides and herbicides on turf, as specified in Rule 391-3-30-.07(6)(d).

As you discussed with EPD staff on the November 3, 2016 phone call, the above mentioned strategies only apply to customers within the Authority's service area. Furthermore, because no commercial car or pressure washing facilities are located in the Authority's service area, you requested EPD staff modify your application to remove those two measures which were included in your original request.

As you requested, this approval is valid for 60 days from the date of this letter. However, if 10 days prior to the expiration of this variance, your sources of supply have not recovered to levels sufficient to provide a reliable supply, please notify EPD and provide any new applicable information so it may be determined if a timeframe extension is warranted.

Mr. Bob Downey

Page 2

As a reminder, at Drought Response Levels 2 and above, the Drought Management Rule requires the submittal of a monthly report to EPD by the 10th of each following month a variance request is approved. Your report will be due to EPD on November 10. As provided in the Rule, the report must detail the drought response strategies the system has implemented, and associated enforcement strategies. Please submit the report electronically to epd.drought@dnr.ga.gov.

In addition to the above, and as indicated in the Authority's Drought Response Level Three Approval letter dated October 18, 2016, Haralson County Water Authority is required to:

1. Review and revise its drought contingency plan pursuant to EPD Rules 391-3-6-.07(4)(b)9., and 391-3-30, and submit it for approval by the EPD Director; and
2. Contact all water systems that purchase water from the Authority, including but not limited to Polk County Water Authority as well as the Cities of Bremen, Buchanan, Tallapoosa, Temple, and Waco, to notify them of this variance. When providing this notification, the Authority will also review with each system any applicable contractual provisions and emphasize the need for each of the systems that rely upon the Authority for water supply to consider their own drought response options including but not limited to: understanding the extent of their available remaining supplies, other available supply options, implementation of their drought contingency plans and requesting a drought response variance of their own to address water uses outside the Authority's service area (e.g. commercial car washes and pressure washing establishments). EPD will also follow up with these water systems to discuss their water supply conditions and options.

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Mr. Bennett Weinstein, EPD's Water Supply Program Manager, at 404-651-5155.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Dunn
Director

Cc: Mayor Sharon Sewell, City of Bremen
Mayor Johnny Pope, City of Buchanan
Mayor William "Pete" Bridges, City of Tallapoosa
Mayor Lester Harmon, City of Temple
Mayor Travis Pritchard, City of Waco
Jack Danrum, Polk County Water Authority
Jac Capp
Gail Cowie
Bennett Weinstein