

CATAWBA-WATEREE DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

News Release

October 7, 2010

Recent Rains not Enough to Keep Basin Out of Drought

The Catawba-Wataree Drought Management Advisory Group (CW-DMAG) today announced that despite recent rainfall, late summer's dry and hot weather has put the Catawba-Wataree River Basin in a Stage 1 drought level of the Low Inflow Protocol (LIP). Stage 1 is the first of four drought stages outlined in the LIP and recommends voluntary water conservation by water users across the Basin.

In Stage 1, water users are encouraged to voluntarily reduce lawn and landscape irrigation as well as residential vehicle washing. Local water suppliers will provide additional guidance on voluntary reductions for their jurisdictions as appropriate.

"Recent rains were very beneficial, but not enough to restore the Basin's long-term streamflow and storage to normal conditions," said Ed Bruce, Duke Energy, CW-DMAG coordinator.

Two of the three LIP drought indicators (triggers) are in or below Stage 1: Water storage in the Basin's lakes has declined to 86 percent of Target Storage, and stream flows that feed the reservoirs are well below normal.

"Streams and lakes were not fully replenished by the recent rains," said Rock Hill Public Services Administrator Jimmy Bagley. "Citizens can help by continuing to use water wisely in their homes, yards, schools and businesses."

The CW-DMAG members have been monitoring conditions closely since the Basin entered a Stage 0 drought watch in early August. According to the process established by the LIP, members receive regular updates and meet at least monthly until conditions return to normal.

Drought and Weather Indicators

The CW-DMAG reviews the area's major drought indicators along with the National Weather Service's predictions of future weather trends.

The [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) map shows most of the basin in either abnormally dry or moderate drought conditions.

The [four-month average of area streamflows](#) is below 65 percent of the historical four-month average and is in a Stage 2 Condition.

The [reservoir storage index](#) is below Target Storage levels and is in Stage 1 conditions.

Rainfall: Year-to-date rainfall through September is about 95 percent of long-term average, with a majority of the rainfall occurring earlier in the year. The National Weather Service is predicting an equal chance of normal, below normal or above normal precipitation in the Basin for October with a below average chance for normal rainfall from Charlotte and south through the end of the year.

The Catawba-Wataree Drought Management Advisory Group (CW-DMAG) was formed to regularly review the drought status and to recommend and coordinate needed actions for the CW-DMAG members. It also reviews the Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) and recommends possible improvements to Duke Energy. Normally scheduled to meet once a year, the CW-DMAG meets at least monthly when LIP triggers indicate Stage 0 or greater. CW-DMAG members include the area's public water suppliers and several large industrial users that withdraw water from the Basin, NC and SC agencies, the US Geological Survey, and Duke Energy. The CW-DMAG and the Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) are outcomes of Duke Energy's relicensing process for the Catawba-Wataree Hydro Project. The LIP will become part of Duke Energy's New License for the Project to be issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.