

Drought Response Notice

March 12, 2009

Clemson University owns and operates a public water system. All public water systems are required by the SC Department of Natural Resources to develop a plan for water conservation during times of drought. This plan must have a way of insuring compliance with the plan, usually in the form of ordinances. The plan must also have “triggers” that initiate procedures for water conservation.

Clemson University purchases all water from the Anderson Regional Joint Water System (ARJWS). ARJWS obtains the water from Lake Hartwell. The Lake is fed by local precipitation. The amount of precipitation over the past 12 months has been 28% less than normal (18 inch deficit), resulting in the low water level of Lake Hartwell.

The drought conditions have improved to the extent that Lake Hartwell has risen above 646 ft. allowing us to change our status to MODERATE DROUGHT PHASE. However, the following **voluntary conservation measures** through reductions in irrigation and personal use remain in effect.

Irrigation reduction: includes irrigating at night to minimize evaporation, delaying the planting of new vegetation till conditions improve, and restricting irrigation to only maintain the existing critical needs.

Personal use reduction: consumption can be reduced by limiting the length of your shower to 5 minutes or less. Reducing showering time by 1 minute can save 1,000 gallons of water a year. Don't let the water run while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your face. You'll save between three and five gallons of water each minute your faucet is turned off.

University Facilities will continue to support efforts by auditing meter readings, limiting the use of evaporative cooling towers and turning off the fountains at the Cooper Library spray pond.

Our goal in this phase is to reduce consumption by **15% to 20%**. This can be accomplished through the voluntary reductions above and eliminating activities like the following:

1. Washing down sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts and other hard surface areas.
2. Washing down buildings or any exterior feature (statues, walls, etc.).
3. Flushing of gutters or other drainage systems.
4. Washing motorbikes, cars, trucks, or any vehicle.
5. Use of fire hydrants for construction purposes, fire drills, or any purpose other than fire-fighting or the maintenance of water quality.

Without a significant increase in rainfall, the US Army Corps of Engineers has predicted the elevation of Lake Hartwell could drop below 638 feet. When this occurs, we will be at the SEVERE DROUGHT PHASE, and will issue another notification that will set additional **mandatory** water restrictions across the campus.

Your assistance and cooperation at this time is essential.

If you have any questions, please call Harry Kirby at 656-4942 or email at kharry@clermson.edu.

Informative Links

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html> (US Drought Monitor)

<http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/hartwell/> (US Army Corps of Engineers – Lake Hartwell)