From: Herbold, Stacey
Subject: Drought Update 28 - No change in drought conditions. Many groundwater wells still below their monthly average.
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:10:49 PM
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Dear Community Water Systems and Municipalities,

Notice* Drought email updates are changing from a weekly frequency to a monthly frequency and will continue until drought termination. The updates will come out early in the month in coordination with the release of the monthly New Hampshire Groundwater Level Monitoring Report.
According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, "moderate drought" (D1) continues to hang on in 12.2% of New Hampshire, including the majority of Sullivan County, the southwestern part of Grafton County, and northwestern Merrimack County. Also, 36.5% of the state is experiencing "abnormally dry" conditions and 51.3% of the state is normal.

The forecast through the weekend and into early next week calls for dry weather and winter temperatures, with highs in the 20s and 30s and lows in the teens. The 6-10 day precipitation outlook tilts toward below normal precipitation, the 8-14 day precipitation outlook favors near normal precipitation, and the 30-day precipitation outlook tilts toward above normal precipitation.

New! The US Monthly Drought Outlook for January has been released and predicts that drought removal is likely.

New! The New Hampshire Groundwater Level Monitoring Report for December 2020 has been released. According to the report, all of the monitoring wells across the state have risen compared to the previous month except for overburden wells in Greenfield and at the Concord airport. Multiple wells in the network are experiencing normal to high groundwater levels as compared to average January values, while others remain below the monthly average. Spatially, wells that are experiencing normal to high levels, and those that remain below, the monthly average, vary across geographic regions of the state. In summary, this month's precipitation and subsequent snowmelt has significantly reduced drought conditions across the state compared to the end of November. However, many groundwater wells are still below their monthly average. The precipitation received this winter and spring will determine the recovery of these wells.

Are residential well owners experiencing well shortage issues in your community? If so, they may qualify for the Low-Income Residential Drought Assistance Program.

Drought Guidance for community water systems, the public, municipalities, and private well owners, as well as other drought information such as guidance on setting up an emergency water access location may be found on the Drought Management webpage.

Drought Update:

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, currently 12.20% of the state is categorized as "moderate drought"(D1), 36.5% is categorized as abnormally dry, and 51.3% is normal.

Over the past 7-days, the majority of the state received between 0.25" to 1.00" of precipitation. (National Weather Service Precipitation Observed & National Weather Service NERFC).

Departures from normal (National Weather Service):

	MONTH TO DATE PCPN/DEPART	30 DAY PCPN/DEPART	60 DAY PCPN/DEPART	90 DAY PCPN/DEPART	180 Day PCPN/DEPART	Year TO DATE PCPN/DEPART	365 DAY PCPN/DEPART	Water Year 2021 TO DATE PCPN/DEPART
BELKNAP	0.54/ 0.05	3.55/ 0.17	8.62/ 1.32	13.40/ 1.83	19.74/ -3.18	0.54/ 0.05	38.97/ -6.29	13.78/ 1.19
CARROLL	0.72/ 0.15	3.84/ -0.09	9.43/ 0.92	14.54/ 1.24	22.44/ -3.51	0.72/ 0.15	46.68/ -4.15	15.03/ 0.62
CHESHIRE	0.78/ 0.23	4.30/ 0.79	9.66/ 2.25	14.43/ 2.67	22.87/ -0.92	0.78/ 0.23	41.81/ -5.10	14.79/ 1.98
COOS	0.56/ 0.06	2.33/ -1.06	6.13/ -1.33	11.23/ -0.58	21.10/ -3.83	0.56/ 0.06	42.91/ -4.47	12.12/ -0.72
GRAFTON	0.71/ 0.20	3.60/ 0.11	8.02/ 0.32	13.00/ 0.81	20.95/ -4.23	0.71/ 0.20	41.05/ -6.98	13.63/ 0.38
HILLSBOROUGH	0.78/ 0.23	4.08/ 0.47	9.49/ 1.78	14.32/ 2.31	20.86/ -2.46	0.78/ 0.23	39.59/ -7.42	14.56/ 1.54
MERRIMACK	0.64/ 0.11	4.05/ 0.59	8.98/ 1.49	13.74/ 1.99	19.97/ -3.21	0.64/ 0.11	39.17/ -7.08	14.02/ 1.27
ROCKINGHAM	0.57/ 0.04	3.36/ -0.17	9.11/ 1.42	13.32/ 1.40	18.93/ -3.96	0.57/ 0.04	36.58/-10.03	13.44/ 0.54
STRAFFORD	0.50/ -0.01	3.31/ -0.24	9.72/ 1.84	14.35/ 2.18	19.91/ -3.54	0.50/ -0.01	39.69/ -7.56	14.54/ 1.38
SULLIVAN	0.67/ 0.17	4.46/ 1.16	8.36/ 1.30	12.79/ 1.47	21.27/ -2.02	0.67/ 0.17	39.08/ -6.34	13.16/ 0.81

Forecast and Outlooks:
The forecast is for dry weather and normal temperatures through early next week. Highs will be in the 20s and 30s and lows in the teens.
(WMUR & NOAA National Weather Service Forecast & NOAA Precip Forecast).

The 6-10 day outlook tilts toward below normal precipitation and favors above normal temperatures across the state. The 8-14 day outlook favors near normal precipitation and above normal temperatures. The 30-day outlook tilts toward above normal precipitation and favors above normal temperatures (National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center).

Stacey Herbold
Water Conservation Program
Water Use Registration and Reporting Program
NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau
29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095
PH: (603) 271-6685
FAX: (603) 271-0656

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