From: Herbold, Stacey
Subject: Drought Update 17 - Some drought deterioration in the North, otherwise drought persists.
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2020 12:31:32 PM

Dear Community Water Systems and Municipalities,

Over the past week, the state has received some widespread rain, which has been enough to decrease the severity of drought in some areas and not in others. Over the past five days, parts of the North Country received between 1.5" and 3" of rain and a good portion of that area has been downgraded from "severe drought"(D2) to "moderate drought"(D1). The majority of the southern half of the state received 1" or less of rain and drought intensity remains the same with "extreme drought"(D3) persevering in the southeastern corner. Widespread soaking rain is expected to arrive tomorrow and continue through Saturday morning, followed by dry weather through early next week.

The risk of private well owners experiencing water shortages is significantly higher in areas experiencing "extreme drought"(D3). As the outdoor water use season winds down, it is recommended that messaging related to indoor conservation begin, especially in areas of "extreme drought". Municipalities may also assess the need to set up locations for emergency access to water. See Drought Guidance for Municipalities for further guidance on emergency sources and indoor savings tips.

Community water systems should continue to track supplies carefully and enforce water restrictions as necessary. It is recommended that messaging related to conserving indoors begin. See Drought Guidance for Community Water Systems

Please report all outdoor water use restrictions and changes to those restrictions using the NHDES Reporting Form for posting on the NHDES website.

To date, 166 community water systems serving 331,000 people and seven municipalities with a total population of 60,700 have water use restrictions in place. See the Restriction List and Map for names of systems and municipalities implementing restrictions and a map of drought conditions by municipality.

Drought Update:
According to the U.S. Drought Monitor released this morning, 22% of the state is categorized as "extreme drought" (D3), 53% of the state is categorized as "severe drought"(D2), and 25% of the state is categorized as "moderate drought" (D1).
Tip* The restriction map includes town boundaries and drought categories, making it easy to identify if your municipality is experiencing drought.

All counties are experiencing a 30-day, 90-day, 180-day, and 360-day precipitation departures from normal
(https://w1.weather.gov/data/TAR/ESPTAR).

The groundwater levels in each of the monitoring wells in the New Hampshire Geological Survey's

monitoring network are lower compared to last month and all but one well are below their monthly average. For more information, see the New Hampshire Groundwater Level Monitoring Report for September 2020. Reports are released monthly.

Forecast and Outlooks:

The short term forecast calls for showers on Friday and Saturday morning and then dry through early next week. (NOAA National Weather Service).

The 6-10 day outlook and 8-14 day outlook favor above normal temperatures and lean slightly toward above normal precipitation.
(National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center).

According to the US Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook, over the next three months, drought conditions are likely to improve, but persist across the majority of the state.

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