From: Herbold, Stacey
Subject: Drought Update 24 - Drought improvement continues.
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:24:08 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Dear Community Water Systems and Municipalities,

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor map released today, drought conditions continue to improve. The southeast portion of the state that was experiencing "extreme drought" (D3) was downgraded to "severe drought"(D2) and approximately 63% of the state is no longer in drought, although 31% of that 63% is still experiencing "abnormally dry" conditions. Wet weather is forecast for Saturday night and Sunday. Precipitation amounts are expected to bringing up to 0.25" of precipitation in the southeastern corner of the state and 0.1" in the remainder of the state. The 6-10 day outlook favors above normal precipitation across the state, above normal temperatures in the southern part of the state, and near normal temperatures in the northern part of the state. The 8-14 day outlook favors above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation statewide.

While conditions are trending in the right direction, it is advised, especially for those areas experiencing severe and extreme drought to monitor conditions carefully and continue to promote indoor water saving tips. Also, while precipitation deficits are the greatest in the southeast, long term precipitation deficits remain throughout the entire state. As the three-month precipitation outlook indicates equal chances of above, below, and near normal precipitation, outlooks beyond three-months are not very reliable, and La Nina is likely to bring warmer temperatures; it is difficult to determine what the winter has in store for the state in terms of precipitation amounts and types. The best way to address uncertainty is to make sure you are prepared. A multi-year drought is very possible. Drought Guidance for Municipalities and Drought Guidance for Community Water Systems is available on the Drought Management webpage. Community water systems should also consider conducting water audits to evaluate and address water losses, complete leak detection surveys, ensure emergency connections are operational, and assess the need for backup sources or emergency connections.

IMPORTANT! 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 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 drought conditions have improved since last week. Currently 9.66% of the state is categorized as "severe drought"(D2), 27.64% of the state is categorized as "moderate drought"(D1), 31.26% is categorized as abnormally dry, and 31.44% is not in drought.

Over the past 7-days, the majority of the state received between 0.5" to 2.0" of precipitation. The higher amounts of rain were received in the southeast in parts of Rockingham and Strafford

counties. Less rain was received on the western border of the state. (National Weather Service Precipitation Observed & National Weather Service NERFC).

Precipitation departures are trending in the right direction with 60-day departures being above normal. Longer term departures are still negative across all counties. (National Weather Service).

NEW! New Hampshire Groundwater Level Monitoring Report for November 2020 has been released. The majority of the wells in the network are experiencing below normal to low groundwater levels, although water levels in about half of the wells in the network have risen since last month. Overburden well CVW-04 in Concord, and overburden wells in Campton, Deerfield, Franklin, and New Durham have been below normal to low for a 6-month period. The overburden wells in Newport have been below normal to low for almost a year. The bedrock wells in East Kingston and Hooksett have been below normal to low for a 6-month period. The dug well in New London and the overburden well in Barnstead have recovered to normal since last month.

Forecast and Outlooks:
Mixed precipitation is expected Saturday night and into Sunday, bringing up to 0.25" in the southeast corner of the state. The majority of the state is expected to receive 0.10". (NOAA National Weather Service Forecast & NOAA Precip Forecast).

The 6-10 day outlook favors above normal precipitation across the state, above normal temperatures in the southern part of the state, and near normal temperatures in the northern part of the state. The 8-14 day outlook favors above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. The 30-day outlook favors above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center).

According to the US Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook, over the next month drought removal is likely, except for the southeastern portion of the state where drought is likely to persist but improve.

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