From: Herbold, Stacey
Subject: Drought Update
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2020 12:22:53 PM
Importance: High

Dear Municipal Contacts: (Please forward to governing board.)

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, over 90% of the state is experiencing drought, which is up from 70% last week. Last week, portions of the state were elevated from "moderate drought" (D1) to "severe drought" (D2), including Rockingham County, Merrimack County, over half of Strafford County, as well as a small area of Belknap and Hillsborough county. This week, severe drought designation further expanded into the western third of Hillsborough County. The remainder of the state is designated as "moderate drought", with the exception of the northern tip of Coos County and a small sliver on the western side of Coos and Carroll County, which are categorized as "abnormally dry". Finally, there is some relief in sight. Remnants of Hurricane Laura are forecast to bring from 1"-2" of widespread rain Saturday. Cooler temperatures are forecast through midweek, meaning less precipitation lost to evaporation. The state will need more of these storms to ameliorate drought conditions. The 90-day precipitation deficits by county for New Hampshire range from -4" to -6" in Strafford, Rockingham, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Grafton, and Belknap; -2" to -3" in Cheshire, Sullivan, and Carrol; and -1" to -2" in Coos.

NHDES is urging municipalities in areas experiencing drought to implement municipal-wide lawn watering restrictions as authorized by RSA 41:11-d, which allows municipalities, including village districts, to restrict lawn watering activities on private well owners and community water systems within municipal boundaries. Water supply shortages are more common during severe drought, especially when conservation measures have not been taken during moderate drought. Curbing lawn water usage is imperative to sustaining supplies. NHDES is also working with public water suppliers to implement restrictions. To date, 143 water systems serving a total of 270,000 people and one municipality with a population of 14,300 have implemented outdoor water use restrictions. See the Restriction List and Map for names of systems implementing restrictions and a map of drought conditions by municipality.

See Drought Guidance for Municipalities for guidance on adopting a lawn water restriction, public messaging, and providing emergency water supplies to the public.

Please report restrictions to NHDES for posting on the NHDES website using the Restriction Reporting Form. Please also inform residents to report residential well shortages using the Residential Well Impact Survey form. NHDES will track well impacts so as to provide current information on drought impacts in your region.

Drought Update:
According to the U.S. Drought Monitor released this morning, 23% of the state is categorized as "severe drought" (D2), 69% of the state is categorized as "moderate drought" (D1) and 7% of the state is categorized as "abnormally dry".
Tip* The restriction map includes town boundaries and drought categories, making it easy to identify if your water system's service area is experiencing drought.

All counties are experiencing a 90-day precipitation departures. Departures range from -1.42" in Coos County to -5.18" in Rockingham County (https://w1.weather.gov/data/TAR/ESPTAR).

The majority of the state is experiencing below normal to low groundwater levels. For more information, see the New Hampshire Groundwater Level Monitoring Report for July 2020. Reports are released monthly. *August's report will be released next week.

Forecast and Outlooks:
The short term forecast calls for potential showers and thunderstorms today in the southern portion of the state, from Lebanon to Concord to the Seacoast. Widespread rain, the remnants of Hurricane Laura, will pass through the region on Saturday bringing 1"-2" of rain. Dry and cool temperatures on Monday and Tuesday will be followed by warmer air in the middle of the week, which may bring more precipitation to the area on Wednesday(NOAA National Weather Service).

The 8-14 day outlook favors above normal precipitation and above normal temperatures across the state.

Due to the probability for higher temperatures and periods of little precipitation, the U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook favors drought conditions to persist through the month of August. Outlooks are released at the end of the month.

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From: Herbold, Stacey
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 2:05 PM
Subject: Drought Update: Drought Conditions Intensify
Importance: High

Dear Municipal Contacts: (Please forward to governing board.)

Last week 48% of the state was categorized as experiencing drought and this week 69% of the state is categorized as experiencing drought. Also, for the first time this season, portions of the state been

elevated from “moderate drought” (D1) to “severe drought” (D2). Areas experiencing severe drought include Rockingham County, Merrimack County, over half of Strafford County, as well as a small area of Belknap and Hillsborough county. To determine conditions in your region, see the drought restrictions and conditions map.

Relief from drought conditions is not looking promising. The heat and humidity are forecast to return tomorrow. Thunderstorms are also forecast for Friday and through early next week, but not widespread enough to be significant. The 8-14 day precipitation outlook favors above normal precipitation, but the indicator is not strong meaning there is only a slight chance of above normal precipitation. The 8-14 day temperature outlook indicator is also not strong, but predicts above normal temperatures in the south and below normal temperatures in the north.

NHDES is urging municipalities in areas experiencing drought to implement municipal-wide lawn watering restrictions as authorized by RSA 41:11-d, which allows municipalities, including village districts, to restrict all or some lawn watering activities on private well owners and community water systems within municipal boundaries. Water supply shortages are more common during severe drought; therefore, lawn watering restrictions should be stricter in areas experiencing severe drought. NHDES is also working with public water suppliers to implement restrictions. To date, 134 community water systems have implemented outdoor water use restrictions. Municipalities are urged to work with local community water systems on implementing coordinated restrictions.

See Drought Guidance for Municipalities for guidance on adopting a lawn water restriction, public messaging, and providing emergency water supplies to the public.

Please report restrictions to NHDES for posting on the NHDES website using the Restriction Reporting Form. Please also inform residents to report residential well shortages using the Residential Well Impact Survey form. NHDES will track well impacts so as to provide current information on drought impacts in your region.

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