



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITY MANAGER DECLARES STATE OF WATER CONSERVATION
Rocky Mount Water Customers Asked to Observe Voluntary Water Use Restrictions

City Manager Stephen Raper today called for a state of voluntary water conservation due to a water shortage in Rocky Mount. An official declaration of the water shortage condition will be effective July 4, 2007.

All city water customers are asked to conserve water while the City's Water Resources Department continues to monitor the water level in the Tar River Reservoir. Voluntary conservation measures can reduce the demand on existing water supplies. These measures are recommended on a precautionary basis.

In the past month, our area has experienced only three-quarters of an inch of rainfall. Since January 1, our area's rainfall has been measured at 9½-10 inches below normal levels. The Tar River Reservoir water level has dropped 12 inches in the past two weeks. Slowing the release of water from the reservoir should help to maintain an adequate water supply.

To further aid in the reduction of water use citywide, the City is limiting the use of treated water in our own facilities. Suggested water conservation measures for area residents include the following:

- washing dishes by hand;
- running the dishwasher only when it is fully loaded;
- repairing plumbing leaks;
- limiting the frequency of car washing;
- watering plants with leftover household water;
- watering lawns only when grass shows signs of withering;
- delaying the seeding or sodding of new lawns;
- washing clothes only with fully loaded washers;
- installing flow restriction devices on showers and toilets;
- prohibiting children from playing with hoses and sprinklers; and
- putting industrial/commercial voluntary conservation programs into effect.

Residents are requested to be conscious of water use and to limit usage of treated water. The voluntary conservation measures will remain in effect until levels return to normal. If conditions do not improve, it may become necessary to announce mandatory conservation measures.

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