

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

At Charleston

A PROCLAMATION

By the Governor

WHEREAS, rainfall received within the State of West Virginia has been two to five inches below normal rainfall for the last 90 days statewide, with pockets of slightly higher rainfall deficits of five to seven inches across the southern half of the state; and

WHEREAS, numerous rivers, lakes, and streams within the State of West Virginia are experiencing extremely low water levels; and

WHEREAS, agricultural interests around the State of West Virginia are experiencing significant effects from the low rainfall rates, including lower than normal hay crop harvests, lower than normal vegetable and fruit harvests, limited water supplies available for livestock, and earlier than normal use of silage to supplement animal grazing; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service's Drought Monitor shows a significant portion of the southern part of the State of West Virginia in Severe Drought condition, with the balance of the State of West Virginia in Moderate Drought condition; and

WHEREAS, the current drought conditions reflect both meteorological and agricultural drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, numerous conditions contained within the Incident Specific Annex 6 (Drought) to the West Virginia Emergency Operations Plan have been observed in the state; and

WHEREAS, there is a previously issued Proclamation relating to a ban on outdoor burning due to dry weather conditions, low water levels in many communities, and an increasing potential for forest fires in all fifty-five counties of the State; and

WHEREAS, these conditions currently exist in all fifty-five counties and are forecast to escalate; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interests of the citizens of the State of West Virginia to maintain adequate drinking water, adequate sources of water for agricultural interests and for necessary sanitation purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Justice, Governor of the State of West Virginia, under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and in section six, article five, chapter fifteen of the Code of West Virginia do hereby **PROCLAIM** that a State of Emergency exists in all fifty-five counties and that this Proclamation shall remain in effect until rescinded by further Proclamation.

FURTHER, I hereby issue the following directives relative to water use:

1. Implementation of the West Virginia Emergency Operations Plan as it relates to drought emergency response;
2. Placement of the State Emergency Operations Center in a stand-by status, unless activation is deemed necessary and appropriate;
3. Restriction of the use of water for the purposes of dust control at construction and industrial sites, except as required under terms of permits issued for the same; and
4. Monitoring of existing water sources for the presence of contaminants, including harmful algae blooms, which tend to propagate more readily in warmer and shallower waters.

FURTHER, I do hereby issue the following voluntary guidelines to the residents of West Virginia:

1. Voluntary cessation of non-agricultural irrigation in the State, including those for strictly recreational purposes;
2. Voluntary limitation of washing or cleaning vehicles and/or structures where not otherwise required by competent legal authority;
3. Voluntary limitation of use of public drinking water systems to minimal standards for good personal hygiene, food preparation, laundry, livestock and pets, and other reasonable purposes; and
4. Voluntary cessation on filling private swimming pools.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.



By the Governor

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, on this the Third day of October in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Nineteen, and in the One Hundred Fifty-seventh year of the State.


GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE