

Water Supply Conditions – April 6, 2012

Despite a lack of precipitation over the past several months and relatively mild weather, combined water supply reservoir levels are at the long-term average for this time of year, but are beginning to drop. Other drought indicators – such as shallow ground water and stream flows– reflect the dry conditions and range from moderately to extremely dry, depending on the drought region. The latest summary of Drought Indicators, which can be viewed in detail at <http://njdrought.org/status.html>, appears below. Looking ahead, the Department’s attention will be focused on weather trends and water demands, among others, as we approach the summer, peak water-use season.

At a time of year when aquifers and water supply reservoirs normally are being replenished by spring rains and snow melt, conditions across New Jersey continue to dry out. The relatively sparse precipitation over the past 90 days is in stark contrast to 2011, when significant flooding affected much of the State. This year’s dry winter and early spring, coupled with the premature arrival of the growing season (when forests and planted crops and landscaping begin to consume vast quantities of water), could rapidly deplete supplies unless significant rain falls in April and May.

For a thorough discussion of the State’s mild winter, refer to the New Jersey State Climatologist web site at <http://climate.rutgers.edu/stateclim/>. At this time, all New Jerseyans can do their part by being mindful of water use in and outside the home. For tips on how you can limit water waste, see <http://njdrought.org/ideas.html>.

NEW JERSEY Regional Hydrologic Indicators & Declared Water-Supply Drought Status							April 4, 2012
Region	Hydrologic Indicator Status	Hydrologic Indicator					Water-Supply Drought Status
		90-day precipitation	90-day stream-flow	N.J. reservoirs	Del. R. reservoirs	Uncont. ground water	
North-west	Near or above normal	0	0	0	0	0	Normal
	Moderately dry	0	0	0	0	0	Watch
	Severely dry	2	0	0	0	0	Warning
	Extremely dry	0	0	0	0	0	Emergency
Central	Near or above normal	0	0	0	0	0	Normal
	Moderately dry	0	0	0	0	0	Watch
	Severely dry	2	2	0	0	0	Warning
	Extremely dry	0	0	0	0	2	Emergency
North-east	Near or above normal	0	0	0	0	0	Normal
	Moderately dry	0	0	0	0	0	Watch
	Severely dry	2	0	0	0	0	Warning
	Extremely dry	0	2	0	0	0	Emergency
South-west	Near or above normal	0	0	0	0	0	Normal
	Moderately dry	0	0	0	0	0	Watch
	Severely dry	2	2	0	0	0	Warning
	Extremely dry	0	0	0	0	0	Emergency
Coastal North	Near or above normal	0	0	0	0	0	Normal
	Moderately dry	0	0	0	0	0	Watch
	Severely dry	4	4	0	0	0	Warning
	Extremely dry	0	0	0	0	0	Emergency
Coastal South	Near or above normal	0	0	0	0	0	Normal
	Moderately dry	0	2	0	0	0	Watch
	Severely dry	2	0	0	0	0	Warning
	Extremely dry	0	0	0	0	0	Emergency

The number in each colored dot is the number of weeks the specific indicator in that region has been in that status. For indicators which changed status this evaluation cycle the arrow indicates the direction of change; it points from the previous status to the current. A water drop (☼) means the indicator has been green for more than a year.

Subject to revision and update. This summary shows regional drought indicators for New Jersey. Local water-supply conditions may vary. Drought status is based on DEP professional judgment of water-supply characteristics and indicators in each region. Indicators are shown only for those water resources significant for each region. The indicators are described at <http://tiny.cc/shoot>.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Bob Martin, Commissioner

For more information:
www.njdrought.org