

**WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN
TOWN OF ELLENBORO
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCH 17, 2015**

The procedures herein are written to reduce potable water demand and supplement existing drinking water supplies whenever existing water supply sources are inadequate to meet current demands for potable water.

I. Authorization

The Ellenboro Town Mayor shall enact the following water shortage response provisions whenever the trigger conditions outlined in Section IV are met. In his or her absence, the Mayor Pro- Tem will assume this role at the advice of the Ellenboro Town Council.

Mr. Jim Rhyne
Ellenboro Mayor
828 453-0625

Mr. Lee Allen
Mayor Pro-Tem
828 289-8329

II. Notification

The following notification methods will be used to inform water system employees and customers of a water shortage declaration: notices at Town Hall, notices on water bills, and on the Town of Ellenboro website homepage www.ellenboronc.info. Required water shortage response measures will be communicated through the Daily Courier 828-245-6431, PSA announcements on our local radio station WCAB and on the Town of Ellenboro website.

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III. Levels of Response

Five levels of water shortage response are outlined in the table below. The five levels of water shortage response are: voluntary reductions, mandatory reductions I and II, emergency reductions and water rationing. A detailed description of each response level and corresponding water reduction measures follow below.

Stage	Response	Description
1	Voluntary Reductions	Water users are encouraged to reduce their water use and improve water use efficiency; however no penalties apply for noncompliance. Water supply conditions indicate a potential for shortage.
2	Mandatory Reductions I	Water users must abide required water use reduction and efficiency measures; penalties apply for noncompliance. Water supply conditions are significantly lower than the seasonal norm and water shortage conditions are expected to persist.
3	Mandatory Reductions II	Same as in Stage 2
4	Emergency Reductions	Water supply conditions are substantially diminished and pose an imminent threat to human health or environmental integrity.
5	Water Rationing	Water supply conditions are substantially diminished and remaining supplies must be allocated to preserve human health and environmental integrity.

In Stage I, *Voluntary Reductions*, all water users will be asked to reduce their normal water use by 5%. Customer education and bulletins will encourage water conservation and efficiency measures including: irrigating landscapes a maximum of one inch per week; preventing water waste, runoff and watering impervious surfaces; watering plants deeply to encourage root growth; washing only full loads in clothes and dishwashers; using spring-loaded nozzles on garden hoses; and identifying and repairing all water leaks.

In Stage 2, *Mandatory Reductions I*, all customers are expected to reduce their water use by 10% in comparison to their previous month's water bill. In addition to continuing to encourage all voluntary reduction actions, the following restrictions apply: irrigation is limited to a half inch per week between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.; outdoor use of drinking water for washing impervious surfaces is prohibited; and all testing and training purposes requiring drinking water (e.g. fire protection) will be limited.

In Stage 3, *Mandatory Reductions II*, customers must continue actions from all previous stages and further reduce water use by 20% compared to their previous month's water bill. All non-essential uses of drinking water are banned and garden and landscape irrigation must be reduced to the minimum amount necessary for survival. Additionally, in Stage 3, a drought surcharge of 50% of the prevailing water rate for all consumption during a billing cycle which exceeds the following quantities:

A single-family residence using in excess of 5,000 gallons within a one-month billing cycle.

A customer other than single-family residence using in excess of 80% of the average daily consumption within the preceding 12 months, within a one-month billing cycle.

In Stage 4, *Emergency Reductions*, customers must continue all actions from previous stages and further reduce their water use by 25% to their previous month's water bill. A ban on all use of drinking water except to protect public health and safety is implemented and drought surcharges increase to 2 times the normal water rate.

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The goal of **Stage 5, Water Rationing**, is to provide drinking water to public health (e.g. residences, residential health care facilities and correctional facilities). **In Stage 5**, all customers are only permitted to use water at the minimum required for public health protection. Firefighting is the only allowable outdoor water use and pickup locations for distributing potable water will be announced according to the Town of Ellenboro's Emergency Response Plan. Drought surcharges increase to 5 times the normal water rate.

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IV Triggers

Ellenboro's water is purchased from the Town of Forest City. When the Town of Forest City declares a water shortage, Ellenboro is required to do so as well. During this time the Mayor will stay in close contact with the Town of Forest City and follow their triggers, as seen below.

Level 1 – A reduction in the flow of the Second Broad River at the USGS gauging station located above the intake (Station ID 02150495) to 26.8 cfs (17.3 MGD) for a period of seven (7) consecutive days (26.8 cfs represents the 7Q10 of the river at that location).

Level 2 - A reduction in the flow of the Second Broad River at the USGS gauging station located above the intake (Station ID 02150495) to 21.4 cfs (13.8 MGD) for a period of seven (7) consecutive days (13.8 cfs represents 80% of the 7Q10 of the river at that location).

Level 3 - A reduction in the flow of the Second Broad River at the USGS gauging station located above the intake (Station ID 02150495) to 16.1 cfs (10.4 MGD) for a period of seven (7) consecutive days (10.48 cfs represents 60% of the 7Q10 of the river at that location).

Level 4 – A reduction in the flow of the Second Broad River at the USGS gauging station located above the intake (Station ID 02150495) to 10.7 cfs (6.9 MGD) for a period of seven (7) consecutive days (13.8 cfs represents 40% of the 7Q10 of the river at that location).

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Level 5 – A reduction in the flow of the Second Broad River at the USGS gauging station Located above the intake (Station ID 02150495) to 5.4 cfs (3.5 MGD) for a period of seven (7) consecutive days (13.8 cfs represents 20% of the 7Q10 of the river at that location).

Return to Normal

When water shortage conditions have abated and the situation is returning to normal, water conservation measures employed during each phase should be decreased in reverse order of implementation. Permanent measures directed toward long-term monitoring and conservation should be implemented or continued so that the community will be in a better position to prevent shortages and respond to recurring water shortage conditions.

V. Enforcement

The provisions of the water shortage plan will be enforced by the Town of Ellenboro Council. Violators may be reported to the Town of Ellenboro’s Mayor, Town Aldermen, or utility department personnel.

Any violation of the Town’s emergency water use restriction policy will result in the termination of service, as well as all other penalties, civil or criminal, provided by law.

In such instances where water service has been discontinued as penalty for willful disregard of the water conservation provisions set forth herein, a ONE HUNDRED (\$100.00) DOLLAR reconnect fee will be imposed before restoration of service. In the event of continued gross non-compliance of this ordinance, the removal of meter will be deemed proper and service will be discontinued, and deposit will be forfeited. Reconnection will only be made by payment of current due amounts and new tap fees and deposits shall be paid.

VI. Public Comment

Customers will have multiple opportunities to comment on the provisions of the water shortage response plan. A draft plan will be published on the Town of Ellenboro website. www.ellenboronc.info. A draft plan will be available to all customers by request to the Utilities Department. All subsequent revisions to the draft plan will be published at least 30 days prior to an adoption vote by the Ellenboro Town Council.

VII. Variance Protocols

Applications for water use variance requests are available from the Town of Ellenboro Utilities office. All applications must be submitted to the Utility office for review by the Mayor or his designee. A decision to approve or deny individual variance requests will be determined within ten business days of submittal after careful consideration of the following criteria: impact on water demand, expected duration, alternative source options, social and economic importance,

VII. Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the Town of Ellenboro water shortage response plan will be determined by comparing the stated water conservation goals with observed water use reduction data. Other factors to be considered include frequency of plan activation, any problem periods without activation, total number of violations citations, desired reductions attained and evaluation of demand reductions compared to the previous year's seasonal data.

IX. Revision

The water shortage response plan will be reviewed and revised as needed to adapt to new circumstances affecting water supply and demand, following implementation of emergency restrictions, and at a minimum of every five years in conjunction with the updating of the Town's Local water Supply Plan. Further, a water shortage response planning work group will review procedures following each emergency or rationing stage to recommend any necessary improvements to the plan to Town of Ellenboro Board of Council. The Town Mayor is responsible for initiating all subsequent revisions.