

Guidance for Drought Response Modification Petition Process
May 27, 2008

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Instructions for Drought Response Modification Petitions | 2 |
| Eligibility | 2 |
| Instructions for Filing a Petition | 2 |
| Description of Drought Response Modification | 3 |
| Petition Review Criteria | 4 |
| Petition Submittal, Review and Response | 5 |
| Attachment A - Drought Response Modification Petition Form | 6 |
| Attachment B - Instructions for Completing Reservoir and Streamflow Analysis Spreadsheets | 9 |
| Table 1 - Summary of Drought Response Modifications | 11 |

As announced by the Director of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) at the Statewide Drought Response Committee on May 6, 2008 and in accordance with House Bill 1281 signed by Governor Perdue on May 14, 2008, permitted water users may petition EPD to implement water use restrictions that differ from non-statutory water use restrictions established by the State (hereinafter “drought response modifications”). This guidance document describes the process permittees may use to petition EPD for drought response modifications.

Instructions for Filing Petitions for Drought Response Modifications

Eligibility

Water users seeking to file a petition must hold one of the following permits:

- Water Withdrawal Permit issued pursuant to the Water Quality Control Act; or
- Groundwater Use Permit issued pursuant to the Groundwater Use Act; or
- Safe Drinking Water Permit issued pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

Instructions for Filing a Petition

Petitions must include the following:

- The form entitled “Petition for Drought Response Modifications” (Attachment A);
- For surface water systems with reservoirs, the spreadsheet entitled “Reservoir Storage Analysis, May 1, 2007 – January 1, 2008” found at http://www.georgiaepd.com/Documents/water_use_schedules.html. Data entered into this spreadsheet by the petitioner will generate a graph that compares storage versus demand. Instructions for completing this spreadsheet are found in Attachment B;
- For surface water systems without reservoirs, the spreadsheet entitled “Streamflow Analysis, May 1, 2007 – January 1, 2008” found at http://www.georgiaepd.com/Documents/water_use_schedules.html. Data entered into this spreadsheet by the petitioner will generate a graph that compares streamflow versus demand. Instructions for completing this spreadsheet are found in Attachment B;
- A one page narrative summary explaining how the data used to complete the worksheet(s) referenced above were derived;

- For surface water systems, a one page generalized schematic drawing of the water system showing how raw water gets from the source to the distribution system;
- For groundwater and spring systems, the form “Petition for Level IV Drought Response Modifications” (Attachment A); and
- For any water system seeking drought response modifications more stringent than those established by the State, the form entitled “Petition for Level IV Drought Response Modifications” (Attachment A), and the following information:
 - A description of the requested restrictions and the time period for their implementation;
 - A projection of water demands using the water restrictions imposed by the State;
 - A projection of water demands using the requested more stringent restrictions;
 - A projection of water availability (raw water or treated drinking water); and
 - A statement that water demand may exceed water availability (raw or treated, average or peak) without additional restrictions.

Description of Drought Response Modifications

The criteria that permittees must meet in order to be granted a drought response modification, and the outdoor water uses allowed under those modifications are summarized in Table I and are described below:

- **Level IV** – No outdoor watering except for exemptions provided for in Section 391-3-30-05 of the Rules for Outdoor Water Use (see note below);
- **Level IVa** - Odd/even watering 1 day per week between midnight and 10:00 am: At the discretion of the permittee, odd addresses water on Sundays or Thursdays, even addresses water on Mondays or Saturdays (see note below);
- **Level IVb** - Odd/even watering 2 days per week between midnight and 10:00 am: Odd on Tuesdays and Thursdays, even on Mondays and Wednesdays. At the discretion of the permittee odd addresses may water on Thursdays and Sundays, even addresses may water on Wednesdays and Saturdays (see note below);
- **Level IVc** - Odd/even watering 3 days per week between midnight and 10:00 am: Odd on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, even on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays (see note below.)

- **More Stringent Water Use Restrictions than those Established by the State:** As requested by water system.

NOTE: The following water uses are allowed under all Drought Response Modifications:

- Uses exempted by Section 391-3-30-.05 of the Rules for Outdoor Water Use;
- The following uses authorized by the Director's Order dated February 11, 2008 or by HB 1281:
 - Hand-watering of existing landscaping for 25 minutes per day during times identified above;
 - Watering of new landscaping on days and times identified for Level IVc for a period not to exceed 10 weeks, upon registration with the Outdoor Water Use Registration Program; and
 - Filling of swimming pools without restrictions on day or time.

Petition Review Criteria

Water systems meeting the following criteria will be granted the following drought response modifications if:

For surface water systems with reservoir storage, the graph generated by the spreadsheet entitled "Reservoir Storage Analysis, May 1, 2007 – January 1, 2008" shows that at any time total reservoir storage:

- Falls below 30%: **Level IV;**
- Falls below 40% but does not fall below 30%: **Level IVa;**
- Falls below 50% but does not fall below 40%: **Level IVb;**
- Does not fall below 50%: **Level IVc.**

For surface water systems without reservoir storage, the graph generated by the spreadsheet entitled "Streamflow Analysis, May 1, 2007 – January 1, 2008" shows that at any time demand:

- Exceeds 10% of streamflow: **Level IV;**
- Exceeds 5% but is less than 10% of streamflow: **Level IVa;**
- Exceeds 1% but is less than 5% of streamflow: **Level IVb.**
- Does not exceed 1% of streamflow: **Level IVc.**

For spring and groundwater systems:

- The form entitled “Petition for Drought Response Modifications” (Attachment A) is completed and submitted to EPD: **Level IVb**.

Petition Submittal, Review and Response

For permits issued pursuant to the Georgia Safe Drinking Water Act, please submit two hard copies of the petition to:

Water Use Petitions Clerk
Drinking Water Compliance Program
Watershed Protection Branch
Environmental Protection Division
2 MLK Jr, Drive, S.W., Suite 1362
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

For permits issued pursuant to the Groundwater Use Act and Georgia Water Quality Control Act, please submit two hard copies of the petition to:

Water Use Petitions Clerk
Water Withdrawal Program
Watershed Protection Branch
Environmental Protection Division
4220 International Parkway, Suite 101
Atlanta, Georgia 30354-3902

EPD will render a decision on each petition and respond in writing within 5 business days of receipt as follows:

- If EPD determines an adequate demonstration has been made as described herein, approve the requested drought response modification; or
- If EPD determines the petition is incomplete, request additional information
- If EPD determines that an adequate demonstration has not been made as described herein, denial of requested drought response modification with a statement of basis for denial.

Attachment A Drought Response Modification Petition Form

Permittee: _____

Permittee address: _____

Water Withdrawal Permit No. _____

Groundwater Use Permit No. _____

Water Supply ID No. (Safe Drinking Water Permits) _____

Drought response modification requested (please circle one):

IV IVa IVb IVc More Stringent

Time period for which the requested drought response modification will be in effect:

| | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Water system served primarily by groundwater or springs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Water system lies within the 55 county area subject to the current Level IV Drought Response? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| This water system depends on purchases of water from a supplier that withdraws water from Lake Lanier or the Chattahoochee River between Buford Dam and Peachtree Creek? If the answer to question is "yes", please provide the amount of water received from Lake Lanier or the Chattahoochee River between Buford Dam and Peachtree Creek as a percentage of your total monthly average production or purchases on a yearly basis for calendar year 2007 in Attachment B. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|

Certification and Petition for Permittees Seeking Less Stringent Watering Restrictions than those Established by the State

Based on an assessment of the attached supporting documentation*, I have determined that:

- Our distribution system has adequate storage and delivery capacity to meet permitted potability and pressure standards during all demand periods;
- Our raw water sources have adequate storage and/or delivery capacity to meet our community water demands based on the attached documentation.

Therefore, I hereby certify that the attached supporting documentation and the forgoing statements constitute evidence sufficient to support a reasonable conclusion that the current non-statutory outdoor watering restrictions or water use reductions imposed by the state are not necessary and appropriate to avoid or relieve a local water shortage. I hereby petition to be allowed to operate our water system under the drought response modification circled above.

Signature

Title

Date

*Supporting documentation not required for spring and groundwater systems

Certification and Petition for Permittees Seeking More Stringent Watering Restrictions than those Established by the State

Based on an assessment of the attached supporting documentation, I have determined that:

- Our distribution system does not have adequate storage and delivery capacity to meet permitted potability and pressure standards during all demand periods;
- Our raw water sources do not have adequate storage and/or delivery capacity to meet our community water demands based on the attached documentation; and
- We will not be able to ensure the delivery of safe potable water supplies to our residential and commercial users.

Therefore, I hereby certify that the attached supporting documentation and the forgoing statements constitute evidence sufficient to support a reasonable conclusion that water use restrictions more stringent than those established by the State are necessary and appropriate to avoid or relieve a local water shortage. I hereby petition to be allowed to operate our water system under the drought response modifications described in the attached supporting documentation.

Signature

Title

Date

Attachment B

Instructions for Completing Streamflow Analysis Spreadsheet

1. Go to http://www.georgiaepd.com/Documents/water_use_schedules.html. Scroll down and click on the link named "Reservoir and Streamflow Worksheet." This will open a Microsoft Excel document. Download this document to your computer. Select the tab named "Stream Flow Worksheet". The data you enter into this worksheet will plot a graph on the worksheet named "Streamflow Graph." When you open the worksheet, you will notice that there are already values entered into it and that a graph has been plotted. This is for illustrative purposes only. These values will be overwritten and a new graph generated as you enter your own data.
2. Enter your name, title, system name, WSID or Permit No., and date.
3. In the row of blue boxes identified as "2007 Stream Flow", enter the 2007 average monthly stream flow (in cubic feet per second) for each month of 2007.
4. In the row of green boxes identified as "2007 Withdrawals", enter the 2007 average monthly withdrawal from the stream (in million gallons per day) for each month of 2007. The form will automatically convert million gallons per day to cubic feet per second. 2007 average monthly streamflow withdrawals may be adjusted to account for system expansion or extension, new customers, loss of existing customers, and other factors. Please document these adjustments in Attachment B.
5. The form will automatically graph lines for average monthly withdrawal and lines representing 1%, 5% and 10% of monthly average streamflow.
6. Please password protect your completed worksheet, burn a copy to a compact disc, enclose in a jewel case and attach to your petition along with a printed color copy of the worksheet.

Instructions for Completing Reservoir Analysis Spreadsheet

1. Go to http://www.georgiaepd.com/Documents/water_use_schedules.html. Scroll down and click on the link named "Reservoir and Streamflow Worksheet." This will open a Microsoft Excel document. Download this document to your computer. Select the tab named "Reservoir Worksheet". The data you enter into this worksheet will plot a graph on the worksheet named "Reservoir Graph." When you open the worksheet, you will notice that there are already values entered into it and that a

graph has been plotted. This is for illustrative purposes only. These values will be overwritten and a new graph generated as you enter your own data.

2. Enter your name, title, system name, WSID or Permit No., and date.
3. In the pink box, enter the Total Storage (in acre feet) of your reservoir(s).
4. In the yellow box, enter the Storage (in acre feet) in your reservoir(s) as of May 1, 2008.
5. In the line of orange boxes identified as “2007 Reservoir Inflow”, enter the 2007 average monthly inflow (in cubic feet per second) into the reservoir(s) for each month of 2007.
6. In the line of blue boxes identified as “2007 Reservoir Withdrawals and Releases”, enter the 2007 average monthly reservoir withdrawals and releases (in million gallons per day) for each month of 2007. 2007 average monthly reservoir withdrawals and releases may be adjusted to account for system expansion or extension, new customers, loss of existing customers, and other factors. Please document these adjustments in Attachment B.
7. In the grey box, enter the Functional Reservoir Limit (in acre feet). This will be the limit at which water can no longer be withdrawn from the reservoir(s).
8. The worksheet will automatically graph lines for usable storage, functional reservoir limit, and the points at which reservoir storage reaches 30%, 40% and 50% of usable storage.
9. Please password protect your completed worksheet, burn a copy to a compact disc, enclose in a jewel case and attach to your petition along with a printed color copy of the worksheet.

**TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF DROUGHT RESPONSE MODIFICATIONS**

| System Type | Criteria for Receiving Drought Response Modification | Drought Response Level | Outdoor Watering¹ |
|--|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Surface Water with Reservoir | <30% storage | IV | Only uses allowed by Outdoor Water Use Rules, EPD Order, HB 1281 |
| | ≥30% & <40% storage | IVa | Odd/even watering 1 day per week, midnight to 10:00 am |
| | ≥40% & <50% storage | IVb | Odd/even watering 2 days per week, midnight to 10:00 am |
| | >50% storage | IVc | Odd/even watering 3 days per week, midnight to 10:00 am |
| | Unable to meet demand | More Stringent | As requested by water system |
| Surface Water without Reservoir | Demand >10% of streamflow | IV | Only uses allowed by Outdoor Water Use Rules, EPD Order, HB 1281 |
| | Demand ≥5% & ≤10% of streamflow | IVa | Odd/even watering 1 day per week, midnight to 10:00 am |
| | Demand ≥1% & <5% of streamflow | IVb | Odd/even watering 2 days per week, midnight to 10:00 am |
| | Demand <1% of streamflow | IVc | Odd/even watering 3 days per week, midnight to 10:00 am |
| | Unable to meet demand | More Stringent | As requested by water system |

**TABLE 1 (Con't)
SUMMARY OF DROUGHT RESPONSE MODIFICATIONS**

| System Type | Criteria for Receiving Drought Response Modification | Drought Response Level | Outdoor Watering¹ |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Groundwater and Springs | Complete petition submitted | IVb | Odd/even watering 2 days per week, midnight to 10:00 am |
| | Unable to meet demand | More Stringent | As requested by water system |

¹Uses exempted by Outdoor Water Use Rules and EPD's February 11, 2008 Order, and HB 1281 are allowed under all Drought Response Modifications