

Drought Contingency Plan

CCN # 10281

PWS # 1820009

Date: March 7, 2023

Section 1 Declaration of Policy, Purpose and Intent

In cases of extreme drought, periods of abnormally high usage, system contamination, or extended reduction in ability to supply water due to equipment failure, temporary restrictions may be instituted to limit nonessential water usage. The purpose of the Drought Contingency Plan (Plan) is to encourage customer conservation in order to maintain supply, storage, or pressure or to comply with the requirements of a court, government agency or other authority. North Rural WSC purchases treated water from the City of Mineral Wells, this Plan follows the exact guidelines set forth in The City of Mineral Wells' Drought Contingency Plan.

Please note: Water restriction is not a legitimate alternative if a water system does not meet the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) capacity requirements under normal conditions **or** if the utility fails to take all immediate and necessary steps to replace or repair malfunctioning equipment.

Section 2 Public Involvement

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by:

- bill insert & additional mailing of drought status update
- other method: publication in local newspaper, posting at County Courthouses

Section 3 Public Education

North Rural WSC will periodically provide the public with information about the Plan, including information about the conditions under which each stage of the Plan is to be initiated or terminated and the drought response measures to be implemented in each stage.

Drought plan information will be provided by:

- Public meeting (regular Board meetings – 1st Tuesday of each month)
- Press releases including newspaper publications
- Posting online via website & social media
- Utility bill inserts
- Other: posting at County Courthouses

Section 4 Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups

The service area of North Rural WSC is located within Regional Planning Group (RWPG) G.

North Rural WSC has mailed a copy of this Plan to the Brazos River Authority, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the City of Mineral Wells.

Section 5 Notice Requirements

Written notice will be provided to each customer **prior to implementation or termination of each stage of the water restriction program**. Mailed notice must be given to each customer 72 hours prior to the start of water restriction. If notice is hand delivered, the utility cannot enforce the provisions of the plan for 24 hours after notice is provided. The written notice to customers will contain the following information:

- The date restrictions will begin,
- The circumstances that triggered the restrictions,
- The stages of response and explanation of the restrictions to be implemented, and,
- An explanation of the consequences for violations.

The utility must notify the TCEQ by telephone at (512) 239-4691, or electronic mail at watermon@tceq.state.tx.us prior to implementing Stage III and must notify in writing the Public Drinking Water Section at MC - 155, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 within five (5) Working days of implementation including a copy of the utility's restriction notice. The utility must file a status report of its restriction program with the TCEQ at the initiation and termination of mandatory water use restrictions (i.e., Stages III and IV).

Section 6 Violations

1. First violation - The customer will be notified by verbal and written notice of their specific violation.
2. Subsequent violations - After written notice, the utility may install a flow restricting device in the line to limit the amount of water which will pass through the meter in a 24-hour period. The utility may charge the customer for the actual cost of installing and removing the flow restricting device, not to exceed \$50.00. Member's may also be charged a fee for violating water use rules not to exceed \$204.00 or 6 times the monthly minimum (in accordance with 30 Texas Administrative Code Section 291.41(j)). Any income generated from fees related to water use violations will be separately accounted for and restricted for water system improvements.
3. The utility may discontinue service at the meter for a period of seven (7) days, or until the end of the calendar month, whichever is LESS. The normal reconnect fee of the utility will apply for restoration of service.

Section 7 Exemptions or Variances

The utility may grant any customer an exemption or variance from the drought contingency plan for good cause **upon written request**. A customer who is refused an exemption or variance may appeal such action of the utility in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The utility will treat all customers equally concerning exemptions and variances, and shall not discriminate in granting exemptions and variances. No exemption or variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.

Section 8 Triggering Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages

The Manager, or his/her designee(s), shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a weekly basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan. Customer notification of the initiation or termination of drought response stages will be made by mail or telephone. The news media will also be informed.

The triggering criteria described below are based on a statistical analysis of the vulnerability of the water source under drought conditions. Weather conditions are to be considered in drought classification determination. Predicted long, cold or dry periods are to be considered in impact analysis.

A. Stage 0 – No Water Shortage Conditions

North Rural Water will recognize that no water shortage condition exists when:

1. Water stored in Lake Palo Pinto is more than 22,316 acre-feet or 865 ft. MSL (84% of storage capacity).

B. Stage I – Mild Water Shortage Conditions

North Rural WSC will recognize that a mild water shortage condition exists when:

1. Water stored in Lake Palo Pinto is equal to or less than 22,316 acre-feet or 865 ft. MSL (84% of storage capacity) and more than 14,759 acre feet or 861 ft. MSL (56% of storage capacity).
2. When total daily water demand equals or exceeds 90% of the safe operating capacity of the system for three consecutive days or 95% of system capacity on a single day.
3. Any mechanical failure of pumping equipment which will require more than 24 hours to repair when no water shortage conditions exist.
4. Water availability is adequate but lake levels and/or reservoir capacities are low enough that some concern exist for future water supplies if the drought or emergency condition continues.

Requirements for termination – Stage I of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 10 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage I, Stage 0 becomes operative. North Rural WSC will notify its customers and the news media of the termination of Stage I.

C. Stage II – Moderate Water Shortage Conditions

North Rural WSC will recognize that a moderate water shortage condition exists when:

1. Water stored in Lake Palo Pinto is equal to or less than 14,759 acre-feet or 861 ft. MSL (56% of storage capacity) and more than 9,099 acre feet or 857 ft. MSL (35% of storage capacity).
2. Average daily water consumption reaches 100% of the safe operating capacity of the system for three consecutive days.
3. Average daily water consumption will not enable storage levels to be maintained.
4. System demand exceeds available high service pump capacity.
5. Any mechanical failure of pumping equipment, which will require more than 12 hours to repair if a mild drought is in progress.
6. Water availability from the lake is below normal and may continue to decline and cause moderate concern for both current and future supplies or water supplies have been reduced due to failure of a portion of the water supply system.

Requirements for termination – Stage II of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 10 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage II, Stage I becomes operative. North Rural WSC will notify its customers and the news media of the termination of Stage II in the same manner as the notification of initiation of Stage I of the Plan.

D. Stage III – Severe Water Shortage Conditions

North Rural WSC will recognize that a severe water shortage condition exists when:

1. Water stored in Lake Palo Pinto is equal to or less than 9,099 acre-feet or 857 ft. MSL (35% of storage capacity) and more than 6,279 acre-feet or 854 MSL (24% of storage capacity).
2. Average daily water consumption reaches 110% of production capacity for a 24-hour period.

3. Any mechanical failure of pumping equipment, which will require more than 12 hours to repair if a moderate drought is in progress.
4. Water availability from the lake is well below normal, may continue to decline, and additional reductions in current or future water supplies are evident or water supplies have been reduced due to failure of a portion of the water supply system.

Requirements for termination – Stage III of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 10 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage III, Stage II becomes operative. North Rural WSC will notify its customers and the news media of the termination of Stage III in the same manner as the notification of initiation of Stage II of the Plan.

E. Stage IV – Emergency Water Shortage Conditions

North Rural WSC will recognize that an emergency water shortage condition exists when:

1. Water system is contaminated either accidentally or intentionally. Emergency condition is reached immediately upon detection.
2. Water system failure from acts of God (tornadoes, hurricanes) or man. Emergency condition is reached immediately upon detection.
3. Any interruption of water service through main water supply lines for more than 12-hours. Emergency condition is reached immediately upon detection.
4. There has been a failure in a major water supply source or system, such as the failure of a dam, storage reservoir, pump system, transmission pipelines, water treatment facility, major power failure, or natural disaster that causes a severe and prolonged limit on the ability of the water supply system to meet the water supply demands; or
5. The source water supply has been contaminated. Notification to the customers will be enacted at once and periodic updates will be conveyed through the news media on progress of emergency water conditions.

Requirements for termination – After the emergency situation has been resolved, the North Rural WSC will notify its customers and the news media of the termination of Stage IV.

Section 9 Specified, Quantified Targets for Water Use Reduction During Periods of Water Shortage and Drought

- A. Stage 0 – No Water Shortage Conditions
Goal: Achieve a voluntary 10% reduction in total use.
- B. Stage I – Mild water shortage conditions
Goal: Achieve a 20% reduction in total use.
- C. Stage II – Moderate water shortage conditions
Goal: Achieve a 25% reduction in total use.
- D. Stage III – Severe water shortage conditions
Goal: Achieve a 30% reduction in total use.

DROUGHT RESPONSE STAGES The Manager, or his/her designee(s), shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in this plan, shall determine that mild, moderate, or severe water shortage conditions exist or that an emergency condition exists and shall implement the following actions:

- A. Stage 0 – No Water Shortage Conditions
 1. Goal:
 - a. Achieve a voluntary 10% reduction in total water use.
 2. Supply Management Measures:

- a. Monitor Lake Palo Pinto levels.
 - b. Release water only needed for treatment and TCEQ permit compliance.
3. Demand Management Measures:
- a. The Manager, or his/her designee(s), will contact wholesale water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and will direct all wholesale water customers to initiate mandatory measures to reduce water use.
 - b. Listed action is compulsory on users and is intended to restrict water use. Unattended landscape watering will be permitted on odd and even days. Other outside use will be permitted on any day of the week. • Addresses ending with an odd number can water on odd numbered days. • Addresses ending with an even number can water on even numbered days.
 - c. No landscape watering on any day between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
 - d. Hand watering of landscape, shrubs, gardens, and grass is permissible on any day, subject to time of day restrictions.
 - e. Encourage voluntary reduction of water use.
- B. Stage I – Mild Water Shortage Conditions
1. Goal:
 - a. Achieve an additional 10% reduction in total water use. (20% total)
 2. Supply Management Measures:
 - a. Monitor Lake Palo Pinto levels.
 - b. Release water only needed for treatment and TCEQ permit compliance.
 3. Demand Management Measures: The Manager, or his/her designee(s), on identifying mild water shortage conditions, shall initiate Stage I curtailment. Listed action is compulsory on users and is intended to restrict water use.
 - a. Unattended landscape watering and maintaining swimming pool levels will be permitted one (1) day per week. Other outdoor water use will be permitted on any day of the week.
 - Mineral Wells on Saturdays • Cool/Garner/Millsap on Sundays
 - b. No landscape watering on any day between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
 - c. Hand watering of landscape, shrubs, gardens, and grass is permissible on any day, subject to time of day restrictions.
 - d. Draining and refilling of swimming pools will not be allowed.
 - e. The Manager, or his/her designee(s), will monitor system function and if necessary adjust hours for outside water use, depending upon system performance.
 - f. Develop information center and designate an information person.
 - g. The information center and publicity elements shall keep the public advised of curtailment status.
 - h. Commercial users will be visited to ensure conservation has been initiated.
 - i. The Manager, or his/her designee(s), will initiate weekly contact with wholesale water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and the possibility of pro rata curtailment of water diversions and/or deliveries.
 - j. The Manager, or his/her designee(s), will instruct wholesale water customers to initiate mandatory measures to reduce water use and implement Stage I of the customer’s drought contingency plan.
 - k. The Manager, or his/her designee(s), will initiate preparations for implementation of pro rata curtailment of water diversion and/or delivery by preparing a monthly water

usage allocation baseline for each wholesale customer according to the procedures specified in this Plan.

I. The Manager, or his/her designee(s), will provide a weekly report to news media with information regarding current water supply and/or demand conditions, projected water supply and demand conditions if drought conditions persist, and customer information on water conservation measures and practices.

C. Stage II – Moderate Water Shortage Conditions

1. Goal:

a. Achieve a 25% reduction in total water use.

2. Supply Management Measures:

a. Monitor Lake Palo Pinto levels.

b. Release water only needed for treatment and TCEQ permit compliance.

c. Begin planning to use Brazos River water for reverse osmosis treatment if conditions worsen.

d. Begin blending Brazos River water.

3. Demand Management Measures: The Manager, or his/her designee(s), shall initiate stage II curtailment upon existence of moderate conditions as determined.

a. No outside water use permitted.

b. The only outside water use exception is for animals.

c. Construction projects shall use reuse water.

d. Commercial uses not listed will be controlled to the extent directed by the Manager. Businesses requiring water as a basic function of the business, such as nurseries, commercial car washes, laundromats, high-pressure water cleaning services, etc., will obtain written permission from the Manager for intended water use. The System Priority for water service shall be made on the following basis:

1. Hospitals

3. Schools

5. Commercial

2. Residential

4. Industrial

6. Recreational

e. The Manager, or his/her designee(s), will contact wholesale water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and will instruct that wholesale water customers initiate additional mandatory measures to reduce water use and implement Stage II of customer's drought contingency plan.

f. The Manager, or his/her designee(s), will initiate pro rata curtailment of water diversion and/or deliveries for each wholesale customer according to the procedures specified in Section 5.10 of the Plan.

g. The Manager, or his/her designee(s), will provide a weekly report to news media with information regarding current water supply and/or demand conditions, projected water supply and demand conditions if drought conditions persist, and consumer information on water conservation measures and practices.

D. Stage III – Severe Water Shortage Conditions

1. Goal:

a. Achieve a 30% reduction in total water use.

2. Supply Management Measures:

a. Bring RO units online.

3. Demand Management Measures:

a. All conditions of Stage II apply.

E. Stage IV – Emergency Water Shortage Conditions

Whenever emergency water shortage conditions exist as defined in this Plan, the Manager, or his/her designee(s), shall:

1. Assess the severity of the problem and identify the actions needed and time required to solve the problem.
2. Inform the utility director or other responsible official of each wholesale water customer by telephone or in person and suggest actions, as appropriate, to alleviate problems and notification to the public to reduce water use until service is restored.
3. If appropriate, notify city, county, and/or state emergency response officials for assistance.
4. Undertake necessary actions, including repairs and/or clean up as needed.
5. Prepare a post-event assessment report on the incident and critique of emergency response procedures and actions.

Section 10 Review and Update of the Drought Contingency Plan

Per TCEQ rules, North Rural WSC will review and update as appropriate, the Drought Contingency Plan, at least every 5-years, based on new or updated information, such as, adoption or revision of the Brazos G and/or Region C Regional Water Plan.

RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR NORTH RURAL WSC

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NORTH RURAL WSC ADOPTING A DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN:

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that the amount of water available to North Rural Water Supply Corporation and its water utility customers are limited and subject to depletion during periods of extended drought;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that natural limitations due to drought conditions and other acts of God cannot guarantee an uninterrupted water supply for all purposes;

WHEREAS, Section 11.1272 of the Texas Water Code and applicable rules of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality require all public water supply systems in Texas to prepare a drought contingency plan; and

WHEREAS, as authorized under law, and in the best interest of the customers of North Rural Water Supply Corporation, the Board deems it expedient and necessary to establish certain rules and policies for the orderly and efficient management of limited water supplies during drought and other water supplies emergencies;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NORTH RURAL WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION:

SECTION 1. That the Drought Contingency Plan attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and made part hereof for all purposes be, and the same is hereby, adopted as the official policy of North Rural Water Supply Corporation.

SECTION 2. That the Superintendent, Office Manager and all staff are hereby directed to implement, administer, and enforce the Drought Contingency Plan.

SECTION 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

DULY PASSED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NORTH RURAL WSC, ON THIS 7th DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

_____ President

_____ Vice President

_____ Secretary/Treasurer

_____ Director

_____ Director

_____ Director

_____ Director

CORPORATION SEAL