

Greetings Public Water Suppliers,

Drought conditions have improved with the late season precipitation we received. This improvement has resulted in your watershed moving to the *Drought Watch Phase*. This means that you are relieved of required water demand reductions. Although seasonal water use is declining, abnormally dry and drought conditions persist throughout Minnesota and the watershed where you reside remains in the *Drought Watch Phase*. The DNR encourages all Minnesotans to conserve water, not only during drought but on an ongoing basis.

The DNR has ceased its weekly drought update process for the year. Much of the state is abnormally dry or in some level of drought resulting from precipitation deficits accumulated over the 2023 growing season. Whether drought continues in 2024 depends on factors including snow pack this winter, spring melt, and spring and summer precipitation. We will continue monitoring conditions over the winter with regular communication returning as necessary after spring thaw.

While seasonal water use changes may temporarily reduce urgency and the need for more restrictive actions, we encourage all Minnesotans to help conserve water. Adopting regular [water conservation measures](#) helps plan for drought and future water-use strategies. For some public water suppliers, this year marked the third continuous year with significant drought. The lessons learned can be incorporated into Water Supply Plans for public water suppliers serving over 1,000 people. You can look to Parts 2 (emergency response) and 3 (water conservation) to make updates.

The 2023 drought affected all of Minnesota. Many watersheds went into advanced phases of drought that required municipalities to implement demand reduction measures through water conservation. The DNR looks forward to evaluating the success of those measures through water use data reported in the [Minnesota Permitting and Reporting System \(MPARS\)](#) as well as water conservation and efficiency information provided in the [water conservation reporting system](#).

Thank you for your awareness and action during the 2023 drought,

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