# Metropolitan Washington Water Supply and Drought Awareness Response Plan: Potomac River System

*Adopted June 7, 2000*

## Normal

- **Wise Water Use**
  - Audience: Entire Metropolitan Washington Region
  - Trigger: None – water supply adequate to meet all demands
  - Actions: Year round Water Conservation Program emphasizing “Wise Water Use” (Attachment B)
    - Routine reporting:
      - Annual briefing in May
      - Monthly Water and Drought Outlooks (June-Oct.)
    - Meeting of the Drought Coordination Committee
    - Regional media briefing/media communications;
    - **Announce voluntary water conservation recommendations**
    - Detailed water supply and drought status reporting; outline of next steps in plan;
    - Inform public that Potomac River Co-op Water Supply is adequate to meet unrestricted demands

## Watch

- **Voluntary Water Conservation**
  - Audience: Entire Metropolitan Washington Region
  - Trigger: NOAA “D1” drought level in Potomac River Basin (adopted on a provisional 2-year basis and will be re-assessed during this time period)
  - Actions: Meeting of the Drought Coordination Committee
    - Regional media briefing/media communications;
    - **Announce voluntary water restrictions** (see attachment C-illustrative list)
    - Regional media briefing on a weekly basis/ongoing media communications

## Warning

- **Voluntary Water Restrictions**
  - Audience: Customers of Co-op System, associated local governments, media
  - Trigger: Combined water supply storage at Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs drops to 60% of capacity for 5 consecutive days; lifted when combined water storage at reservoirs increases and remains above 60% for a period of 15 days; OR
    - 5% Probability of not meeting unrestricted water supply demands over next 1 – 2 months
  - Actions: Meeting of the Drought Coordination Committee
    - Announcement of voluntary water restrictions (see attachment C-illustrative list)
    - Regional press conference on daily basis; ongoing media communications

## Emergency

- **Mandatory Water Restrictions**
  - Audience: Customers of Co-op System, associated local governments, media
  - Trigger: 50% probability of not being able to meet water supply demands over next month
  - Actions: Meeting of the Drought Coordination Committee
    - WAD assigns allocations to Potomac River utilities (per Low Flow Allocation Agreement)
    - Regional press conference on daily basis; ongoing media communications
    - Water supply reporting on a daily basis
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions Cont.</th>
<th>Normal</th>
<th>Watch</th>
<th>Warning</th>
<th>Emergency</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Messages</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wise Water Use Messages:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Voluntary Water CONSERVATION Messages:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Voluntary Water RESTRICTIONS Messages:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mandatory Water RESTRICTIONS Messages</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Wise water use--focus on inside uses: repairing plumbing problems/leaks</td>
<td>• Emphasis on water conservation outside the home or office--</td>
<td>• Public and businesses asked to voluntarily implement water restrictions to help ensure adequate water supply and maintain reservoir levels</td>
<td>• Public and businesses required to implement water restrictions to maintain water supplies</td>
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<td><strong>General Information Messages:</strong></td>
<td>• Reminders about year round wise water uses</td>
<td>• Detailed list of voluntary water restrictions issued</td>
<td>• Detailed list of mandatory reductions issued</td>
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<td>• Know your water sources and suppliers</td>
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<td>• Water supply outlook</td>
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<td>• Regional response to drought (here is how the region is prepared to respond)</td>
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<td>• Promotion of web site(s)</td>
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<td>• Water supply very limited; water use reductions essential</td>
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<td>• Know your water source</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Co-op water supply outlook</td>
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<td>• Water supply conditions have deteriorated, but Co-op system water supply still adequate</td>
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<td>• Co-op water supply system outlook</td>
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<td>• Reminders of the next steps if conditions worsen</td>
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COG 5/31/00