



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Salisbury-Rowan Utilities Recommends Customers be aware of Dry Conditions

Salisbury, North Carolina, August 9, 2015 – Several weeks ago Salisbury-Rowan Utilities reported that the seven-day average flow of water at the U.S. Geological Survey's Yadkin College Gauge, located upstream of the city's intake, was 751 million gallons of water a day. While the U.S. Drought Monitor categorized this as "Abnormally Dry" conditions for the watershed upstream of the city's intakes, it did not trigger SRU's Water Shortage Response Plan.

The U.S. Drought Monitor has updated reports that conditions in the watershed have now reached "Moderate Drought," as the seven-day average flow at Yadkin College Gauge is 622 million gallons of water a day, which is just within the range to place the City of Salisbury into an Alert Level identified in its Water Shortage Response Plan.

Jim Behmer, Utilities Director of Salisbury-Rowan Utilities, states, "because we are just within the water shortage criteria's range, which is set at a flow rate below 646 million gallons per day, we are required to issue an advisory." Behmer stressed that, "Citizens and business are not to mistake this with a severe or extreme drought."

The good news is that Salisbury-Rowan Utilities obtains our water from the Yadkin River which is fed by the Yadkin Pee-Dee River Basin, the second largest watershed in North Carolina. Unlike many of the other 16 river basins in North Carolina, the Yadkin Pee-Dee extends up into Virginia and along a wide watershed made up of 4000 square miles, or 2.5 million acres, in 9 counties.

Salisbury-Rowan Utilities is fortunate compared to many other areas within the southeast. When the counties upstream get precipitation, it is accessible to our intakes; and of the hundreds of millions of gallons which flow past our intakes daily, we only use a seasonal average of 10 million gallons per day.

Of course, we will continue to monitor our water supply and will provide updates as they become available. As reported several weeks ago, we are quite a ways from issuing voluntary water-use restrictions, which would occur if the flow rates dropped to less than 323 million gallons a day. We certainly are not there yet; however, if citizens want to be proactive there are some easy ways to conserve water which include turning off faucets

while shaving, brushing teeth or washing dishes, operating washing machines and dishwashers with full loads only, limiting time when taking showers, and refraining from using water to wash down driveways or parking lots.

Media Contact: Jim Behmer at 704-638-5205 or jbehm@salisburync.gov.

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