



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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SHAWN M. LATOURETTE

Commissioner

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2025-11

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey holds all natural resources in trust for the benefit of its people, including all water resources within the boundaries of the State, which are comprised of springs, streams, and bodies of surface and groundwater, whether natural or artificial, as well as the ocean and its estuaries to the seaward limit of the State's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the State Commissioner of Environmental Protection serves as Trustee of all natural resources of the State with a possessory interest to protect the same, and a fiduciary duty to the people of New Jersey to ensure their good care, including the aforementioned water resources, which are essential public assets critical to the health, safety, economic wellbeing, recreational and aesthetic enjoyment and general welfare of all New Jersey residents; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Water Supply Management Act, N.J.S.A. 58:1A-1, *et seq.*, and the attendant Water Supply Allocation Rules, N.J.A.C. 7:19, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is responsible for ensuring that water resources are planned for and managed as a common resource to provide an adequate supply and quality of water for all New Jerseyans, and is obligated to seek to prevent and respond to water supply emergencies; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 7:19-13.1(d) provides that DEP may call for specific action to reduce the possibility or lessen the impact of an impending water shortage; and

WHEREAS, between May 2024 through October 2024, New Jersey experienced below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures, which contributed to decreased stream flows, low groundwater levels, below-normal water supply reservoir storages, and above-average water consumer demands; and

WHEREAS, on October 17, 2024, DEP issued a statewide drought watch due to ongoing below normal precipitation, the deterioration of drinking water supply indicators, and the potential for the development of a more serious water supply situation; and

WHEREAS, due to continued degradation of water supply conditions, in considering a declaration of a statewide drought warning condition, DEP held a public hearing on November 12, 2024, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:19-13.1(d), and, on November 13, 2024, DEP issued Administrative Order 2024-15, establishing a statewide drought warning; and



WHEREAS, to increase and preserve storage in key reservoirs in the State, Administrative Order 2024-15 modified four reservoir release requirements and seventeen passing flows requirements and required water providers to take certain actions to preserve water supply; and

WHEREAS, the reductions to reservoir releases and passing flows identified by Administrative Order 2024-15 were to remain in effect until revised by future DEP order or directive; and

WHEREAS, between November 2024 and June 2025, DEP and water suppliers have worked collaboratively to monitor water supply conditions, address water loss concerns, and convey the importance of water conservation to the public; and

WHEREAS, in recent months, the State experienced more average rainfall, which contributed to a reduction in the precipitation deficit, more normal stream flows and groundwater levels, and replenishment of water supply storage across the State; and

WHEREAS, the storage capacity of reservoirs across the State has significantly improved, recovering to average levels; and

WHEREAS, as fresh water continues to be a finite resource critical to the health, safety, economic wellbeing, recreational and aesthetic enjoyment, and general welfare of all New Jersey residents, DEP shall continue to encourage all New Jersey residents and businesses to practice water conservation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Shawn M. LaTourette, Commissioner of Environmental Protection, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Water Supply Management Act, N.J.S.A. 58:1A-1, *et seq.*, and the Water Supply Allocation Rules adopted pursuant thereto, N.J.A.C. 7:19, and under all other applicable statutes and regulations, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. The Drought Warning declaration for the entire State of New Jersey is terminated, and the corresponding modified passing flows and reservoir releases are lifted and hereby restored to their permitted volumes; and
2. All residents, businesses, and institutions in the State of New Jersey are encouraged to practice water conservation and to use water wisely. Tips for water conservation can be found at <https://dep.nj.gov/consERVE-water/>.

Administrative Order 2024-15 signed on November 13, 2024, and all previous orders or portions thereof that are inconsistent with this Order, are hereby superseded and repealed. This order shall take effect immediately.

Dated: June 11, 2025


Shawn M. LaTourette
Commissioner

