



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Phil Montgomery, Chairperson
Eric Callisto, Commissioner
Ellen Nowak, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

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Contact: Kristin Ruesch or Matthew Pagel, 608-266-9600

Kristin.Ruesch@Wisconsin.gov or Matt.Pagel@Wisconsin.gov

Water Utilities Protecting Consumers from Effects of Drought

Madison - Many municipal utilities have been undertaking measures to protect consumers during the drought, and Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Chairperson Phil Montgomery is visiting with two of them today.

Cedarburg Light and Water and the City of Fitchburg Water Utility are good examples of utilities that have taken proactive steps to plan for the drought and manage demand to avoid problems for customers, Montgomery said.

"Wisconsin residents and businesses continue to have access to safe, affordable, potable water due to the efforts of municipal water utilities across the state that recognize the value in proactive conservation practices," Montgomery said. "I'd like to thank the local water utilities who have made drought response a top priority."

Governor Walker has directed state agencies to participate in efforts to provide relief to Wisconsin residents during the drought. The PSC is reaching out to municipal water utilities and implementing plans to expedite any construction application filed in response to drought conditions.

Fitchburg Water Conservation Measures

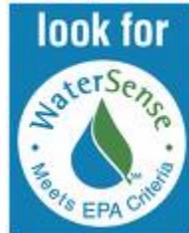
Chairperson Montgomery visited Fitchburg this morning and learned the Fitchburg Utility District's water supply and distribution system includes the operation and maintenance of seventy miles of water mains, six wells, three elevated storage tanks, one ground reservoir, and one booster station. This infrastructure provides the City of Fitchburg with a total pumping capacity of 6,000 gallons per minute, elevated storage capacity of 1.75 million gallons, ground water storage capacity of 500,000 gallons, and transfer capacity of 1,300 gallons per minute between pressure zones.



Montgomery and
Fitchburg Mayor
Pfaff discuss water
conservation.



Fitchburg implemented a robust water conservation program before the drought. This program has allowed the utility to respond proactively to protect its water supply. In 2008, the Public Service Commission approved water conservation rates for the utility, including inclining block rates for residential customers and a special "irrigation rate" for outdoor water use. The Commission also approved a toilet rebate program. Fitchburg has local ordinances in place that establish voluntary water-use restrictions and mandatory outdoor water use restrictions during water supply emergencies.



Fitchburg is an
EPA
WaterSense
partner.

Cedarburg Water Conservation Measures

Chairperson Montgomery will visit [Cedarburg Light & Water](#) at 1 pm this afternoon. Cedarburg Light & Water is a locally owned and operated electric and water utility, serving 6,000 homes and businesses in Cedarburg. The Cedarburg Light & Water Utility recently declared a "Mandatory Watering Restriction" due to the significant deficit of rainfall and other precipitation dating back to last winter. The restriction, along with a conscious effort by all customers towards overall, common-sense water conservation, will help insure the community has adequate supplies of water for use by residents, businesses, and to provide for adequate water supply for fighting fires. It is expected that this restriction will be in place until October 1, 2012.

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The PSC Division of Water, Compliance and Consumer Affairs (DWCCA) is responsible for the agency's regulation of over 580 municipal water utilities.