

RESERVE TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION NO. 811

DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RESERVE, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, TO ADOPT AND PLACE INTO IMMEDIATE EFFECT THE DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN OF RESERVE TOWNSHIP.

WHEREAS, Title 4, Chapter 118 of the Pennsylvania Code addresses Reductions of Major Water Use in a Commonwealth Basin Drought Emergency Area; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 118.4 “Contingency Plans – Public Water Supply Agencies” requires that “within the time frame specified in the Governor’s proclamation of drought emergency or order issued during an emergency by the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator, each public water supply agency which provides service to 50 or more customer connections and which has either a source of water or a service area within the designated drought emergency area shall develop, adopt and submit a drought contingency plan meeting the requirements set forth in this section.

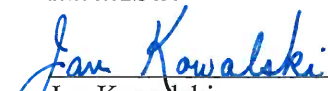
WHEREAS, Chapter 118.4 further requires that any previously approved plan be not less than 3 years old; and

WHEREAS, Reserve Township last submitted a Drought Contingency Plan in 2023.

THEREFORE, the Reserve Township Board of Commissioners, herein, approve, adopt and place into immediate effect the Drought Contingency Plan of Reserve Township.

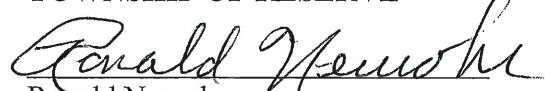
BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED, this 5th day of August 2026.

ATTEST:


Jan Kowalski
Township Manager



TOWNSHIP OF RESERVE


Ronald Neurohr
President, Board of Commissioners

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY AGENCY DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN (PA. CODE CHAPTER 118.4)

This is a format example template to be used for submission of a Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) for a public water supply agency. The DCP is submitted via the Drought Emergency Application (DEA) on Greenport. Any questions Call: 717.772.1100 or Email: droughtinfo@pa.gov.

1) **Name, address, and telephone number of the public water supply agency:**

Name of Agency: Reserve Township Water Department
Address: 33 Lonsdale Street, Pittsburgh PA 15212
Telephone No.: 412-322-1551 Fax: - -

Name, address, and telephone number of officers or other persons responsible for directing operations during a drought emergency:

Name and Title: Jan Kowalski, CPA, Township Manager
Address: 33 Lonsdale Street, Pittsburgh PA 15212
Telephone No.: 412-322-1551 Fax: - -
E-mail Address: manager@reservetwp.com

2) **A description, including locations and yields, of the water sources used by the facility as well as water available through interconnections with other public water supply agencies:**

Surface Water: (Stream, spring, reservoir, pond, quarry, etc.)		
Name	Location	Safe Yield (gpd)
Allegheny River	900 Freeport Road, Pittsburgh PA	100,000,000 (max permitted)

Purchasing Interconnections: (names of water suppliers, locations and maximum amounts available)		
Name of supplier	Location	Maximum amount available
Pgh2o	300 Faber Street	600,000 gpd total of all 3
Pgh2o	4220 Mt. Troy Road	
Pgh2o	100 Ramage Road	

Description of the operation and how the above sources are used:

Reserve Township Water Department purchases water from Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (Pgh2o) under a 1993 agreement. Pittsburgh Water agrees to make available to the Township at least 400,000 gallons per day, up to a maximum of 600,000 gallons per day. The terms of the agreement specify that the Authority's obligation to provide water to Reserve is subordinate to its primary duty to provide water to customers within its own service area and subject to acts of God and other causes beyond the control of the Authority. The Authority may restrict flow of water if, in its opinion, the flow is detrimental to its own customers. Pittsburgh Water sources water from the Allegheny River and treats it at the Aspinwall Water Treatment Plan

3) Water withdrawn or purchased from each source during the previous calendar year or most recent 12-month period for which data is available:

Period of Record	Name of Source: Include all interconnections	Total water withdrawn/purchased during year (MG)
2025	Allegheny River (purchased from Pgh2o through 3 interconnects)	94,786,000 gallons

4) Data indicating the average Annual and Maximum Daily Water Use for the system for the previous calendar year or most recent 12-month period for which data is available:

Period of Record	<u>Calendar Year 2025</u>	
Average (annual) Daily Water Use	<u>259,688</u>	gpd
Maximum Daily Water Use	<u>657,613</u>	gpd

5) A description of criteria (Trigger Points) to be used by the Supplier in identifying the various onset of drought response levels in the system:

The three stages of response are when voluntary conservation measures are needed (Stage I); mandatory water use restrictions are needed (Stage II); and when water rationing (Stage III) is required to reduce water demand even further.

These triggers should be associated with what best would call for these responses. For a system relying mostly on wells, the triggers should be either well levels or lowered capacity of production. Similarly, systems using streams would use certain streamflow rates as their trigger.

In all instances, any state declaration of drought watch or drought warning should also be used to trigger Stage I. A Governor's declaration of Drought Emergency requires mandatory restrictions on non-essential water uses and must also be a trigger for Stage II. Going to Stage III (rationing) requires that the service area be included in a Governor's declared drought or water shortage emergency area. Also, a rationing plan must be submitted to the commonwealth drought coordinator for review and approval prior to actual implementation.

If local triggers can occur before State Declarations (use drought contingency plan summary Model I for Section 6), the triggers used in the plan should include both local and state (e.g., Stage I, well #5 drops to 75 feet for two weeks or the commonwealth declares a drought watch or drought warning). If the supplier's sources provide much more water than the system uses (use drought contingency plan summary Model II for Section 6), then the triggers for Stage I and Stage II should only be state declarations. Stage III is normally needed when an individual public water supplier's sources have depleted such that demands can no longer be met under mandatory restrictions or health and safety is being threatened by inadequate water supplies.

Write a brief description of the triggers used and the reason for their selection:

The three stages of response are:

Stage I: Voluntary conservation measures are needed;

Stage II: Mandatory water restrictions are needed;

Stage III: Water rationing is required to reduce water demand even further.

In all instances, any state declaration of Drought Watch or Drought Warning will trigger Stage I. A Governor's declaration of Drought Emergency requires mandatory restrictions on non-essential water uses and will trigger Stage II. Stage III will be triggered if our service area is included in a Governor's declared drought or water shortage emergency area. A rationing plan will be submitted to the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator for review and approval prior to implementation. Stage III restrictions are triggered by the Allegheny River's pool elevation in relation to the Aspinwall WTP's intake structure. From January 2023 through June 2025, the pool elevation has ranged between 720 and 733 feet above MSL. This pool elevation is controlled by the Lock and Dam 2 which is regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers which maintains a minimum pool elevation of 720 feet. The East Intake structure currently provides raw water supply to Aspinwall WTP. The East Intake has three levels of racks providing raw water from the river to the conduit feeding the Ross Pump Station. The bottom of the lowest rack is at an elevation of 701.5 feet. In order to maintain flow to the WTP and maintain submergence of the lower intake, the Stage III trigger is set 714.5 feet. This elevation remains 5.5 feet below the low pool elevation.

6) A plan of actions (Supply Extension Measures and Demand Reduction Measures) which will be taken by the public water supply agency to respond to drought or water shortage conditions. Use Model I or Model II.

The basic/required minimal demand reduction measures and supply extension measures are outlined on the following **Drought Contingency Plan Summary Models I and II** under columns labeled "Demand Measures" and "Supply Measures". **Model I** is for systems vulnerable under drought conditions (supply limited). **Model II** is for systems where supply is considered abundant even under drought conditions (supply easily meets demand even in drought conditions).

Select the model that will be used: Model II

**Drought Contingency Plan Summary
Model II**

Trigger Point	Demand Measures	Supply Measures
Commonwealth Declares a Drought Watch or Drought Warning for Area	STAGE I Voluntary Restrictions on Nonessential Water Use Conduct Public Notices	Systemwide Leakage and Loss Reduction Survey
Governor Declares a Drought Emergency for the Area	STAGE II Implement Mandatory Restrictions on Nonessential Water Use Identify Customers That Could be Shed from System: Insert as needed Nonessential Water Use The drought management activities most visible to the general public during a declared drought emergency are the nonessential water use restrictions required by Chapter 119. These restrictions are designed to achieve a reduction in overall water use of up to 25 percent. The overall objective of all drought management activities is to protect public health, safety and welfare, with health and safety being paramount. To help protect welfare, water use restrictions are limited, at least initially, to nonessential uses. These restrictions are voluntary under Stage I and mandatory under Stage II. Nonessential use restrictions apply generally to watering of lawns, gardens and shrubs; washing vehicles and paved surfaces; filling swimming pools; and use of water for ornamental purposes. PA DEP Fact Sheets for “Managing Turf-Related Water Use During a Drought Emergency” and “Managing Water Use During a Drought Emergency” are made part of Reserve Township's Drought Contingency Plan. These documents will form the basis of voluntary and mandatory	

	nonessential use restrictions and messaging developed for public notice. Chapter 119.6 states: “If compliance with the prohibition of nonessential use of water would result in extraordinary hardship upon a water user, the water user may apply for an exemption or variance. These requests are reviewed, and variances are either granted or denied by the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator.” If Stage III appears Imminent, submit Water Rationing Plan to the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator	
Local Supply Cannot Meet Demand because of Local Drought or Water Shortage Emergency	STAGE III - RATIONING Implement Water Rationing Plan After Approval by the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator	List emergency sources and equipment necessary to utilize each source: Request Instream Flow Requirement Reduction, if applicable. (To submit a request to the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator for approval – use the Drought Emergency Application available at: https://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/DEA/)

7) Procedure for Granting Variances:

Whenever mandatory water use restrictions or water rationing is imposed on users, the potential for hardships occurs. Therefore, a procedure for granting variances to those requirements is necessary. All drought emergencies declared by the Governor, which require mandatory restrictions on non-essential water users, have a procedure for variance administered by the commonwealth drought coordinator. Similarly, the variance procedure for local rationing plans is administered by the public water supplier, as outlined in that plan. However, if mandatory restrictions (Stage II) are called for by a public water supplier following its drought contingency plan, a variance procedure is needed. That procedure, which must be used by public water suppliers, is as follows and must be included in drought contingency plans using Model I (Section 6).

This procedure will be implemented if mandatory water use restrictions are imposed and the Governor has not declared a drought emergency in our area.

- (1) If compliance with the prohibition of non-essential use of water would result in extraordinary hardship upon a water user, the water user may apply for an exemption or variance, which would expire with the termination of the mandatory water use restrictions, unless otherwise specified in the exemption or variance. For purposes of this section, extraordinary hardship means permanent damage to property or other personal or economic loss which is substantially more severe than the sacrifices borne by other water users subject to the prohibition of non-essential use of water.
- (2) A water user believing they suffer extraordinary hardship and desiring to be wholly or partially exempt from the restrictions on the non-essential use of water shall submit a written request with full documentation supporting the need for the requested relief to the public water supplier responsible for adopting and implementing this plan. The application shall contain information specifying:
 - (i) The nature of the hardship claimed and reason for the requested exemption or variance.
 - (ii) The efforts taken by the applicant to conserve water and the extent to which water use may be reduced by the applicant without extraordinary hardship.
- (3) The public water supplier or a designee will review the application and may request the applicant to provide, within a reasonable time, additional information as necessary to review the application. A written decision will be provided within seven working days, when possible, or if perishable products are involved, within one working day of submission of an application; or a request will be made for additional information as necessary to review an application. The evaluation will consider impacts on public health and safety, food and fiber production and preservation, pharmaceutical processes, electric generation, maintenance of employment, measures already taken by the user to conserve and store water, and the ability to further implement conservation measures. An exemption or variance will be granted only to the extent necessary to relieve extraordinary hardship.
- (4) Any person aggrieved by a decision relating to such an exemption or variance rendered by a public water supplier or designee may file, within 30 days of the decision, a complaint with the Public Utility Commission, if the supplier is regulated by the Public Utility Commission, and in all other instances with the Court of Common Pleas in the County where the water service is provided, in accordance with 2 Pa. C.S. §§551 – 555 and 751 – 754 (relating to the Local Agency Law).
- (5) An appeal from an initial decision of the public water supplier or designee will not act as a supersedeas, stay or injunction of that decision.
- (6) An exemption or variance may be modified or rescinded by the public water supplier if public health, safety, and welfare require further reduction in water use.
- (7) An exemption or variance granted to a water user for a specific property, purpose, or person is not transferable to another property, purpose, or water user without approval from the public water supplier.