

OFFICIAL COPY

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

FILED
MAY 27 2008
Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: May 27, 2008

For more information, contact:

Ron Brown (919) 733-0845
Bliss Kite (919) 733-0854

**NCUC RELAXES RESTRICTIONS
ON NONESSENTIAL WATER USAGE**

On October 24, 2007, the North Carolina Utilities Commission ordered that water use by the customers of all Commission-regulated water and water resale companies be restricted to essential household or business use only. On May 23, 2008, the Commission issued an Order relaxing some of the restrictions previously imposed on nonessential water usage.

In general, for water systems served by utility-owned wells, the level of restrictions applicable to customers will vary depending on county of residence and depending on how such county is classified in accordance with the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council (DMAC) drought severity map classifications, which are updated from week to week every Thursday. The Commission will maintain a webpage entitled *Non-Essential Water Usage Restrictions*, on its website, www.ncuc.net, whereupon the varying restrictions will be listed by drought severity classifications. The webpage will contain a hyperlink to the DMAC drought severity map.

While a majority of the water systems throughout North Carolina regulated by the Utilities Commission acquire their water from utility-owned wells, many regulated, utility-owned systems purchase their water from other sources and resell the water to their customers. For such systems, the Commission is allowing the customers of these purchased-water systems to be subject to the same water restrictions regarding nonessential water usage imposed by the local municipality from which the water that they consume is being purchased.

The Commission regulates approximately 650 private companies that provide water and/or sewer service throughout the State. The Commission will closely monitor the effect of the drought on these systems and will continue working with Governor Easley and the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council to assist in ensuring adequate and safe water supplies during the continuing drought. The Commission is poised to take additional steps, as necessary, to support the Governor's efforts to manage and conserve the State's water supply.