

Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners

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Main-Line News

www.denniswater.org

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James Ritchie, Asst. Superintendent

Volume 21, No. 2

August 2014

Drought Action Level Moves to Advisory


Drought Action Level Seeks "Voluntary" Odd/Even Watering Schedule

Effective July 1st, the District moved its Drought Action level from "Normal" to "Advisory". This action was voted by the Board of Water Commissioners at a meeting held June 12 in accordance with the District's Drought Management Plan (draft). The Plan was developed in accordance with the standards set forth by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the American Water Works Association Drought Management Handbook. The Plan is intended to implement graduated steps in mitigating the potential impacts of low ground water levels.

Massachusetts is a relatively water-rich state with regular precipitation and stable surface water and groundwater supplies. Drought conditions can occur in the short and long term lasting for several months to several years. The Plan provides guidelines for determining drought conditions specific to the District's system and location. The District's drought management efforts compliment those proposed by the state on a regional level. Implementation of a system and site-specific plan, such as the one adopted by the Water Commissioners for the District, is an essential tool enabling the District to be good stewards of the resources used and the environment that supports those resources.


It may seem to some that the Board's declaration of an *Advisory* status may have been premature but, given the below average rainfall over the past winter and spring, the District's groundwater levels did not return to historical averages. The move to *Advisory* is the first step in an effort to educate the consumer that early conditions for drought are being observed and early action is recommended. The *Advisory* level simply asks customers to voluntarily adhere to an Odd/Even outdoor watering schedule while the District continues to monitor both the precipitation and ground water levels to determine if and when a change in the drought management status level, in either direction, is recommended.

Odd/Even Outdoor Water Schedule — If your house number is an odd number—you should only water on "odd" numbered days of the month. For even house numbers watering should be on "even" numbered days.



HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS
PRODUCTS

Questions?
Contact the Barnstable County
Hazardous Materials Program
(508)375-6699 / (800)319-2783



2014
COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Town of Dennis

These collections are open to all Town of Dennis residents & homeowners.
Local businesses must call to participate at cost: 508-375-6699

Dates: Saturday, September 13
Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Location: Tony Kent Arena 8 South Gages Way South Dennis

The Dennis Water District and the Town of Dennis host free annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days. The District's collection was held on Saturday, June 7th, with more than 300 households participating.

The program provides property owners with the opportunity for free and proper disposal of old or leftover hazard materials. This year, the Town of Dennis is hosting two. One will have been held August 2, just prior to the printing of this newsletter. The second will be held on Saturday September 13. The program is sponsored by Dennis Water District, Town of Dennis, Covanta SEMASS and Cape Cod Cooperative Extension Service. For further information contact the Extension Service at 800-319-2783 or visit their website at www.capecodextension.org.

Reminders For Our Valued Customers

This newsletter is a great opportunity to share with customers some of the most frequent issues that are addressed by staff. They are not in any particular order of frequency or importance. Please refer to the District's website for a complete list of Rules and Regulations.

- ♦ Property owners are *financially responsible for all repairs made to their water service* from the connection at the street main up to the water meter, even if the main is on the opposite side of the street. (Section 1).
- ♦ Payments made from your personal on-line checking account are likely to be debited from your account on the specified date but, the District may not be credited the funds or receive a check from the third-party processor for up to 3 to 5 days later.
- ♦ The District reads meters just twice a year. Don't be surprised by a large water bill. Catch undetected leaks early by reading the water meter monthly, especially if you have a lawn irrigation system.
- ♦ Is the water supplied by the District "hard" or "soft"? The water is considered *soft* as it has only small amounts of dissolved minerals such as calcium and magnesium.

EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3

In 1996, the Safe Drinking Water Act, as administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), required water systems to test every five years for newly identified possible contaminants, known as the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). UCMR 3 is the third listing of selected contaminants by EPA since the first list was issued in 1999. The program tests for the presence, frequency and concentration of these contaminants. The data is then used to determine if further regulations are necessary to protect the public health. This list is being done in two rounds, the first was taken by the District in April of this year. The second round of samples will be taken this fall and the final results will be published in the 2014 Consumer Confidence Report.

The majority of new contaminants being sampled are for chemicals used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant. Also included were pesticides, defoliants, solvents, fire extinguishing chemicals, cosmetics and shampoos as well as elements that naturally occur in the environment. Preliminary results from the District's first round of samples were quite favorable.

There have been several recent news articles about one contaminant in particular. It is 1,4-dioxane and it has been detected in a small number of ground water samples on the Cape. 1,4-dioxane is a solvent or solvent stabilizer used in everyday household and commercial products. Sampling for detection of this contaminant in Dennis had not been conducted prior to UCMR 3. During a Board of Water Commissioners meeting last month, Superintendent David Larkowski was pleased to report that there were no detections of this contaminant in Dennis's water supply. The Board attributes the favorable UCMR 3 findings to the protection provided to the watershed by more than 1,000 acres of open space either owned or held in permanent conservation restriction by the District.

Detailed information about the UCMR 3 can be found at: <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/ucmr/ucmr3/basicinformation.cfm>.

How Small is 1 Part Per Billion?

The samples for contaminants under UCMR 3 are tested in parts per billion. Here are a few real life examples of parts per billion:

- ♦ 1 penny in 10 million dollars
- ♦ 1 second in 32 years
- ♦ 1 foot of a trip to the moon
- ♦ 1 blade of grass on a football field
- ♦ 1 drop of water in an Olympic-size swimming pool

Dennis Awaits NStar to

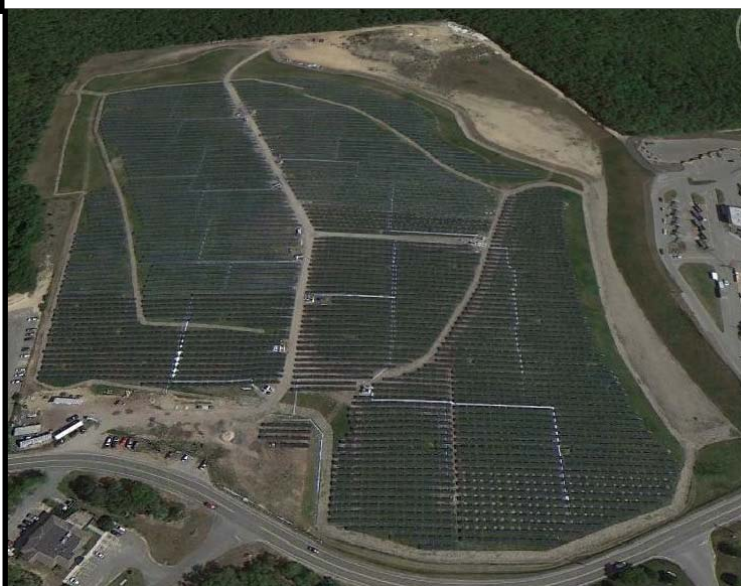
The Town of Dennis entered into a public/private partnership with American Capital Energy to install and operate a 6 Megawatt solar field on the Town's capped landfill. This will be one of the largest community-hosted photovoltaic projects in the state. It is anticipated that the power produced by these solar panels will satisfy the Town of Dennis' municipal electrical load for buildings and street lighting, etc.



Photovoltaic panels use solar cells to convert energy from the sun into a flow of electrons.

The Dennis Water District and the Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District will also be beneficiaries of the power generated. By entering into an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town, the District will purchase net metering credits resulting in an estimated annual savings of approximately \$100,000 in electricity expense. The District's FY 2015 appropriation for electricity is \$260,000. NStar has yet to advise if the credits will be cash or directly applied to bills.

The construction of the project is now complete. Municipal officials anxiously await NStar to complete the interconnection between the solar farm and the power grid to begin generating power.



Approximately 23,000 photovoltaic panels were installed by American Capital Energy on more than 30 acres of the capped landfill. This picture is looking north from Theophilus Smith Road. The Dennis Transfer Station is on the right.