

Aquarion Water Company Lifts Mandatory Outside Water Use Ban

HINGHAM, October 16, 2007 – Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts (PWS ID#4131000) officials announced today that they will lift the Phase III Mandatory Water Restrictions for customers in Hingham, Hull and North Cohasset, effective Wednesday, October 17, 2007. Under Phase III no outdoor watering was allowed at any time.

The water use ban was put into effect on August 30, 2007. The ban was a result of the higher than normal daily water demands and extended hot and dry weather conditions. The Phase III mandatory outdoor water use restrictions helped assist in managing the MA DEP Water Management Act Registration limits.

Under the MA DEP Water Management Act, Aquarion is only allowed to pump an average of 3.51 million gallons per day (MGD) on an annual basis. “During the summer, we have found that water usage increases about 150% or more, and most of that increase is due to outside watering through the use of irrigation systems,” Larry Bingaman, Aquarion Senior Vice President, said. “Since the Phase I voluntary reduction in outside water use and the Phase II Odd-Even Mandatory Water Use Restrictions did not result in a large enough reduction in demand in addition to continued hot and dry weather patterns, we had to go to Phase III.”

“We would like to thank our customers for their support in complying with the restrictions, which reduced the average daily water demand from 4.5 million gallons per day (MGD) to 3.6 MGD,” Bingaman added, "Demand is currently running about 3.0 MGD."

Bingaman noted that rainfall for the month of September in Hingham was down by about 32% compared to a 50-year average for the same month, and for the May-June 2007 period, when rain is heavier, rainfall was 31% lower than the 50-year average for the same months. For the first two weeks in October rainfall is about equal to the 50-year average. The Phase III water restrictions are being lifted based on the demand reductions in the system, rainfall events of last week and irrigation systems are typically not in use this time of year.

“We strongly encourage our customers to continue to use water wisely by utilizing good conservation practices,” Bingaman added, “Conservation tips can be found on Aquarion’s website at www.aquarionwater.com or by contacting our customer service department at 1-800-928-3734. Aquarion continues to partner with the Greenscapes Program as we have over the past few years and we encourage our customers to utilize the annual Greenscapes Guide or their website www.greenscapes.org for best management practices for lawns and landscaping.”

Bingaman continued, "Additionally, customers can take these easy steps to save water and money:

- Fix faucet and toilet leaks – Save 20 gallons/day
- Turn off water while grooming – Save 3 gallons/minute
- Install low-flow showerheads – Save 2.5 gallons/minute
- Install low flow sink aerators – Save 2 gallons/minute
- Wash full loads of dishes and clothes – Save 13 to 33 gallons
- Don’t run water to get it cold (fill jugs and refrigerate) – Save 3-5 gallons/minute
- Install rain sensors and/or soil moisture analyzers on your irrigation system
- Program irrigation systems to deep soak with less frequency (2 times per week) to improve root depth and overall health of your lawn."

— Aquarion —

NOTE: Larry Bingham, Senior Vice President, Aquarion Water Company will be appearing before the Hingham Board of Selectment Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at 7:30PM

For more info:

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