

CHRONOLOGY OF DROUGHT IN THE DELAWARE RIVER BASIN

- August 8, 2001 Lancaster, Lebanon, and Schuylkill counties are included in a drought watch issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).
- August 24, 2001 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) issues a drought watch that includes Broome and Chenango counties in the Delaware River Basin (DRB).
- PADEP moves Berks and Chester counties from normal to drought watch status.
- October 24, 2001 Storage in the New York City (NYC) Delaware reservoir system drops into the drought watch zone. Storage is 109.820 billion gallons (bg) and is below the drought watch line of 110 bg for this date. Drought watch operations will be in effect if storage remains below the drought watch line for five consecutive days.
- October 29, 2001 Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC) drought watch operations are now in effect. The flow objectives at Montague and Trenton, New Jersey are reduced to 1,655 cubic feet per second (cfs) and 2,700 cfs, respectively, and NYC diversions drop from 800 million gallons per day (mgd) to 680 mgd. Conservation releases from the NYC Delaware reservoirs are decreased to 85% of augmented experimental levels.
- October 30, 2001 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) issues a drought watch for the entire state of New Jersey.
- November 4, 2001 Storage in the NYC Delaware reservoir system drops into the drought warning zone and DRBC's drought warning operations are automatically in effect (no five day waiting period). The flow objective at Montague decreases to 1,550 cfs and the flow objective at Trenton remains at 2,700 cfs. NYC and New Jersey diversions are reduced to 560 mgd and 70 mgd, respectively.
- November 5, 2001 NYSDEC moves six DRB counties from normal to drought watch status (Delaware, Greene, Orange, Schoharie, Sullivan, and Ulster).
- November 6, 2001 PADEP moves Chester, Lancaster, and Lebanon counties to drought warning status and places 10 other DRB counties under drought watch. A total of 12 DRB counties are now under drought watch (Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Delaware, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Schuylkill, and Wayne).
- November 21, 2001 NJDEP issues a drought warning for three of the six state drought management areas (Northwest, Southwest and Coastal South). The drought warning affects 13 of New Jersey's DRB counties.

- November 26, 2001 Storage in Cannonsville Reservoir falls to a record low storage of 3.25 bg, which is only 3.4% of usable capacity.
- Storage in the NYC Delaware reservoir system drops into the drought zone. Storage is 69.267 bg and is below the drought line of 70 bg for this date. Drought operations will be in effect if storage remains below the drought line for five consecutive days.
- December 1, 2001 DRBC's drought operations are now in effect. The flow objectives at Montague and Trenton drop to 1,350 cfs and 2,500 cfs, respectively. NYC and New Jersey diversions are decreased to 520 mgd and 65 mgd, respectively.
- December 5, 2001 PADEP moves 12 DRB counties from drought watch to drought warning (Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Delaware, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Schuylkill, and Wayne). A total of 15 DRB counties are now under drought warning in Pennsylvania. PADEP also moves Lackawanna and Luzerne counties from normal to drought watch status.
- December 6, 2001 NYSDEC moves six DRB counties from drought watch to drought warning status (Delaware, Greene, Orange, Schoharie, Sullivan, and Ulster).
- December 15, 2001 Storage in the NYC Delaware reservoir system drops to a record low of 63.348 bg or just 23.4% of capacity. This is more than 113 bg below normal storage levels for the date.
- December 18, 2001 During the last commission meeting of 2001, DRBC approves *Drought Emergency Resolution 2001-32* and declares a basinwide drought emergency. Under the emergency order, DRBC can call for releases from federal, state, and privately owned reservoirs to bolster flows in the Delaware River and its tributaries.
- December 19, 2001 DRBC *Resolution 2001-33* is enacted. The goal is emergency protection of the tailwaters fishery.
- December 26, 2001 The seven-day average, 250 parts per million chloride concentration location (known as the "salt front") retreats to Delaware River mile 82 due to recent rains. Since the salt front is downstream of river mile 82.9, the Montague flow objective is further reduced to 1,100 cfs (as per the DRBC Drought Operating Plan [Resolution 83-13]). The Trenton flow objective remains at 2,500 cfs.
- December 27, 2001 New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) issues a drought watch based on a less than a 50% chance that either the Delaware or Catskill reservoir systems will be full by June 1.