

**DROUGHT INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ALBANY NY
826 PM EDT FRI SEP 16 2016**

...SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS EXPAND INTO WESTERN NEW ENGLAND...

SYNOPSIS...

SIX MONTH RAINFALL DEFICITS OF SIX TO NINE INCHES IN WESTERN NEW ENGLAND HAVE LED TO SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS. ACCORDING TO THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 RELEASE OF THE U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR...CENTRAL BERKSHIRE COUNTY IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS AND EASTERN LITCHFIELD COUNTY IN CONNECTICUT WERE CLASSIFIED AS EXPERIENCING /D2/ OR SEVERE DROUGHT. ELSEWHERE IN EASTERN NEW YORK AND WESTERN NEW ENGLAND...CONDITIONS RANGED FROM /D1/ MODERATE DROUGHT IN THE CATSKILLS...MID HUDSON VALLEY...AND SOUTHERN GREEN MOUNTAINS...TO DROUGHT FREE IN THE WESTERN MOHAWK VALLEY.

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS...

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIONS.

SINCE DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND WATER SYSTEMS VARY BY LOCATION...MOST WATER MANAGEMENT DECISIONS ARE MADE BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNING OFFICIALS.

ON AUGUST 1ST THE MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ISSUED A DROUGHT ADVISORY FOR BERKSHIRE COUNTY. THE ADVISORY CONTINUES IN EFFECT.

ON JUNE 27TH THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUED A DROUGHT ADVISORY FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT...INCLUDING LITCHFIELD COUNTY. THE DROUGHT ADVISORY CONTINUES IN EFFECT.

ON JULY 15TH THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ISSUED A DROUGHT WATCH FOR THE ENTIRE STATE OF NEW YORK. A WARNING WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED FOR WESTERN PORTIONS OF THE STATE...NOT INCLUDING ANY COUNTIES IN THIS EASTERN NEW YORK SERVICE AREA. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN NEW YORK PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://WWW.DEC.NY.GOV/LANDS/5017.HTML](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5017.html)

A VARIETY OF MANDATORY TO VOLUNTARY WATER RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN DECLARED BY SOME LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES ACROSS WESTERN NEW ENGLAND AND EASTERN NEW YORK. CONSULT YOUR LOCAL OFFICIALS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

CLIMATE SUMMARY...

PRECIPITATION OVER THE PAST 90 DAYS HAS AVERAGED FROM 1 TO 5 INCHES BELOW NORMAL ACROSS THE FORECAST AREA...WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ISOLATED POCKETS THAT RECEIVED HEAVY RAINFALL...INCLUDING THE CAPITAL DISTRICT AND NORTHERN ADIRONDACKS...WHERE PRECIPITATION WAS SLIGHTLY ABOVE NORMAL.

TEMPERATURES OVER THE LAST 90 DAYS HAVE AVERAGED FROM 1 TO OVER 4 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL...AND THESE WARM TEMPERATURES HAVE INCREASED EVAPORATION POTENTIAL OF ANY RAIN THAT DID FALL DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

PRECIPITATION/TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK...

THE SEVEN DAY RAINFALL FORECAST INCLUDES BETWEEN AN INCH AND TWO AND A HALF INCHES OF RAIN FOR THE FORECAST AREA...MOST OF WHICH IS FORECAST TO FALL FROM SATURDAY NIGHT INTO MONDAY MORNING. IF THIS MATERIALIZES...IT COULD STAVE OFF DROUGHT DETERIORATION BUT IS UNLIKELY TO BE ENOUGH TO MAKE UP FOR THE SIX MONTH RAINFALL DEFICITS ON THE ORDER OF SIX TO NINE INCHES.

THE 8 TO 14 DAY OUTLOOK FOR SEPTEMBER 24 TO 30...ISSUED BY THE CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER /CPC/...CALLS FOR TEMPERATURES AVERAGING ABOVE NORMAL...WITH PRECIPITATION ABOVE NORMAL IN THE NORTHERN TWO THIRDS OF THE FORECAST AREA AND NEAR NORMAL THE SOUTHERN THIRD.

HYDROLOGIC SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK...

28 DAY STREAMFLOW AVERAGES IN WESTERN NEW ENGLAND ARE GENERALLY BELOW TO MUCH BELOW NORMAL ACCORDING TO U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY /USGS/ STREAMGAGES. IN EASTERN NEW YORK...28 DAY AVERAGES REMAIN NEAR NORMAL.

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION /NYCDEP/ WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS ARE 2.4 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL STORAGE CAPACITY. SCHOHARIE RESERVOIR IS AT 24.1 PERCENT OF CAPACITY...HOWEVER THIS IS THE SMALLEST OF ALL THE NYCDEP RESERVOIRS.

HUDSON RIVER BLACK RIVER REGULATING DISTRICT RESERVOIRS ARE ALL NEAR TARGET ELEVATIONS FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR...EXCEPT INDIAN LAKE...WHICH IS ABOUT A FOOT AND A HALF BELOW NORMAL.

IF THE WEEKEND RAINFALL FORECAST MATERIALIZES...IT COULD STAVE OFF DROUGHT DETERIORATION BUT IS UNLIKELY TO BE ENOUGH TO MAKE UP FOR THE SIX MONTH RAINFALL DEFICITS ON THE ORDER OF SIX TO NINE INCHES.

NEXT ISSUANCE DATE...

THIS PRODUCT WILL BE UPDATED ON OR ABOUT OCTOBER 21ST OR SOONER IF NECESSARY IN RESPONSE TO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN CONDITIONS.

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RELATED WEB SITES...

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS MAY BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING WEB ADDRESSES...

US DROUGHT MONITOR...[HTTP://WWW.DROUGHT.UNL.EDU/DM/MONITOR.HTML](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html)
NOAA DROUGHT PAGE...[HTTP://WWW.DROUGHT.NOAA.GOV](http://www.drought.noaa.gov)
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER (CPC)...[HTTP://WWW.CPC.NCEP.NOAA.GOV](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)
NORTHEAST REGIONAL CLIMATE CENTER...[HTTP://WWW.NRCC.CORNELL.EDU](http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu)
VERMONT STATE CLIMATE OFFICE...[HTTP://WWW.UVM.EDU/~LDUPIGNY/SC](http://www.uvm.edu/~ldupigny/SC)
NEW YORK STATE CLIMATE OFFICE...[HTTP://NYSC.EAS.CORNELL.EDU](http://nysc.eas.cornell.edu)

ADDITIONAL RIVER INFORMATION...

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE...[HTTP://WATER.WEATHER.GOV](http://water.weather.gov)
US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY...[HTTP://WATER.USGS.GOV](http://water.usgs.gov)
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS...[HTTP://WWW.USACE.ARMY.MIL](http://www.usace.army.mil)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS...

THE DROUGHT MONITOR IS A MULTI-AGENCY EFFORT INVOLVING NOAA/S
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER...THE
USDA...STATE AND REGIONAL CENTER CLIMATOLOGISTS AND THE NATIONAL
DROUGHT MITIGATION CENTER. INFORMATION FOR THIS STATEMENT HAS
BEEN GATHERED FROM NWS AND FAA OBSERVATION SITES...STATE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICES...THE USDA...USACE AND USGS.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS...

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT THIS DROUGHT INFORMATION
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