

Drought Warning Continues in Franklin County – May 29, 2026

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has placed Franklin County into a “Drought Warning” stage. Currently, 15 counties across the state are in a drought watch while 4 counties, including Franklin County, are in a drought warning. Please visit DEP’s drought website for more information on the current status.

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/programs-and-services/water/bureau-of-safe-drinking-water/interstate-water-resources-management-division/drought-information>

How are drought declarations made in Pennsylvania?

The “Drought Warning” stage is the second drought declaration that DEP will issue. Drought declarations are not based on a single factor. DEP considers four key indicators: stream flow, groundwater levels, precipitation, and soil moisture. Each has an established normal range. Declarations are made after assessing how far conditions have deviated from normal over the past 3 to 12 months. Currently, for our area, groundwater levels and soil moisture are far below normal levels.

What about water restrictions?

At this stage of a Drought (in the “Warning” category), water use restrictions are voluntary, and the target is a 10-15% reduction in non-essential water uses. Customers will not be penalized if they fail to follow the request for water conservation measures, but all customers are encouraged to do so.

The Borough of Chambersburg encourages all citizens and businesses to consider the following examples to reduce their water use:

- Run the dishwasher and washing machine less often, and only with full loads.
- Shorten the time you let the water run to warm up before showering and take shorter showers. The shower and toilet are the two biggest indoor water guzzlers.
- Check for and repair household leaks. For example, a leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water daily.
- Install low-flow plumbing fixtures and aerators on faucets.
- Replace older appliances with high-efficiency, front-loading models that use about 30% less water and 40-50% less energy.

Please visit www.chambersburgpa.gov/pdf/UseWaterWisely.pdf for further water conservation information and tips. For more information or questions regarding the voluntary restrictions, please email watersli@chambersburgpa.gov or call 717-251-2405.

How are Chambersburg’s water supplies impacted?

Currently, Long Pine Run Reservoir is at 100% capacity. The reservoir level is sufficient for all customer needs. Borough personnel will continue to monitor our water supply carefully to ensure that we are aware of any changes in capacity.

