



How does the drought affect us?

Dean Moss, General Manager

The entire Southeastern United States is in the grips of a very serious drought.

Rainfall is dramatically below average over our entire region. The drought has seriously impacted the Upper Savannah River Basin - our water supply, but Beaufort and Jasper Counties have not been directly affected at this point.

Although we were more than 10 inches below our average annual rainfall in 2007, rainfall was better in the last six months of the year. With the exception of November, our area received close to or above average rainfall from June through December. In contrast to 2002, there have been no reports to either BJWSA or the SC Department of Health & Environmental Control of domestic wells going dry. Most

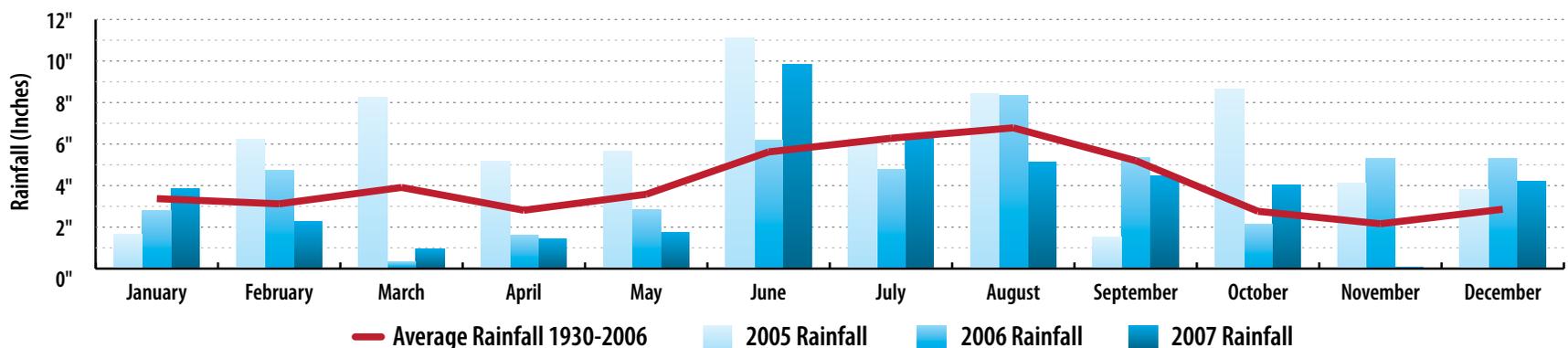
importantly — because of the way the Corps of Engineers has managed the reservoirs — the Savannah River has had more than enough water for our needs at our withdrawal location.

Beaufort and Jasper Counties are in good shape concerning this drought, certainly better than many in South Carolina. We are in a lower demand time of year and we have adequate water supplies. However, if the drought continues — and this winter is projected to be unusually dry — we may find ourselves in trouble in the future.

BJWSA is initiating a comprehensive water supply planning project to evaluate other potential sources of water, and to determine what types of investments must be made now to ensure that, regardless of future droughts, we have the water needed to sustain our communities. In this issue of *Splash*, you will find more information on our water supply and this planning project.

RAINFALL IN BEAUFORT COUNTY

Average rainfall data source: Southeast Regional Climate Center
 2005-2007 rainfall data source: Chelsea Water Treatment Plant, BJWSA



BJWSA WINS THE GOLD

BJWSA is one of 6 public utilities nationwide recognized by the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) with a Gold Award for Competitiveness Achievement. The AMWA judges cited several BJWSA accomplishments:

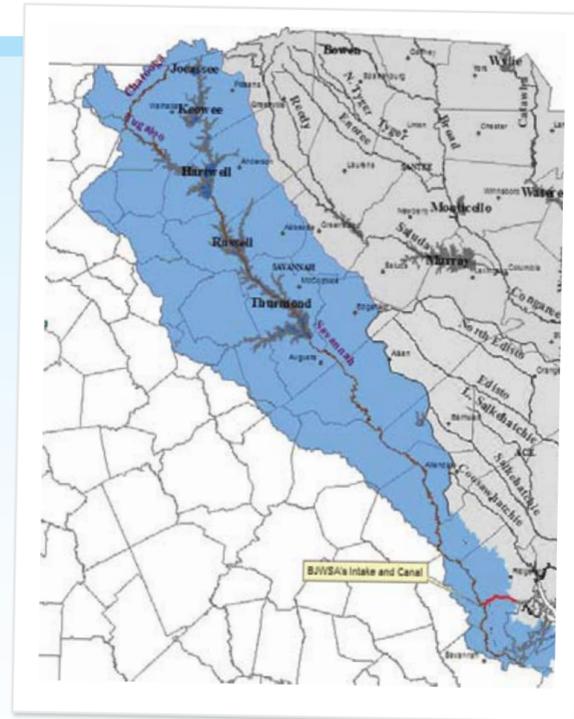
- The construction of a water reclamation facility and a high quality, state-of-the-art water treatment plant, on time and within budget
- One million hours without a lost-time work accident
- Employees contributing to successful programs through design teams for safety, employee morale, warehouse operations, and human resources

“AMWA’s Gold Award-winning water systems are pacesetters in the drinking water industry and are meeting competitive goals for efficiency, cost of operations and quality of service,” AMWA President Mark Premo noted. “They foster sustainability through forward-looking plans to maintain their infrastructure and ensure future water supplies.”

About our Water Supply

The Savannah River is our primary source of drinking water. The amount of water available at the location where BJWSA makes withdrawals is heavily dependent upon the release of water from Lake Thurmond in the Upper Savannah River Basin. The Corps of Engineers manages releases based on the needs of the Savannah River Wildlife Refuge and the water supply requirements of Georgia Power's Plant Vogtle. The Corps has reduced releases from Lake Thurmond from over 5000 to 3600 cubic feet per second (approximately 2.3 billion gallons per day) and may consider further reductions in the future. BJWSA currently withdraws about 20 million gallons per day during the winter.

Lake Thurmond is now about 10 feet below its full pool level and about 5 feet below where it normally would be at this time of year. The Corps of Engineer's drought plan calls for a continued release at 2.3 billion gallons per day until the conservation pool in Lake Thurmond is completely used up. The Corps estimates that under current drought rainfall conditions, the release rate should keep the lake at an acceptable level for more than three years. In the event that the current drought levels continue or worsen to the point that the conservation pool is drained, only water flowing into the lake will be released.



SAVANNAH RIVER BASIN

Water Supply Planning Underway

Although the 2007 drought has not had a severe impact on our community, that could change in the future. Because of conditions described in the above article, a proactive and flexible approach to managing our water supply is more critical than ever. BJWSA is developing a comprehensive water supply program, called the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan. This plan will identify new potential water sources and the costs required to access these new sources. It will also determine the most efficient and appropriate ways to ensure that our communities have the water they need over the next fifty years.

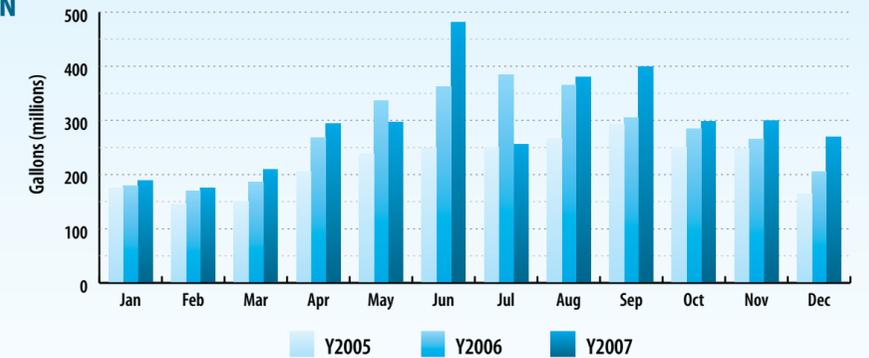
The planning effort involves a detailed analysis of the major issues surrounding our water supply and demand. Throughout this process, we will address several major concerns:

- protecting our future access to both groundwater and surface water;
- the future use of other water resources, including ocean and storm water;
- reducing our water demand per household; and
- increasing water reuse.

BJWSA is committed to the Savannah River as its primary water supply. However, this source, an interstate river, will be subject to increasing regulation and competition in the future. Also, due to climate changes, there may be significant changes in the amount of water available from the River. BJWSA's intensive planning effort focuses on developing essential strategies that make the most of opportunities and meet the many technical, policy and regulatory challenges concerning our water supply and increasing water demands.

RESIDENTIAL WATER CONSUMPTION

Water usage in Beaufort and Jasper Counties is extremely high during summer months, largely due to irrigation. Our water system is designed to ensure adequate water supplies during the periods when the most water is used (peak use). This high peak use in the summer must be reduced or a costly expansion of the Purrysburg Water Plant may be necessary in the next five to seven years.



If you have an irrigation system or are thinking of installing one this year, here are some important considerations:

- Automatic irrigation systems, if not properly managed, can waste a lot of water. You are the "brains" behind your irrigation system controller and scheduling.
- Drip irrigation techniques have improved in the past ten years. A well-designed drip system should use less water than spray emitters.
- Include an automatic shutoff device – a rain or soil moisture sensor - with your sprinkler system to maximize water efficiency and effectiveness.

A water efficient controller should be able to handle diverse landscape and weather situations and include:

- Three independent programs
- Station run times from one to 200 minutes
- Three start times per program
- Odd/even, weekly, and interval program capability up to 30 days
- Water budgeting from 0-200%, in 10% increments, by program
- 365 day calendar, adjusted for leap year
- Non-volatile memory or battery back-up
- "Off", "Auto", and "Manual" operation modes without disturbing programming
- Rain/weather shut-off device capability
- Diagnostic circuitry to notify you when station is shorted or a power failure has occurred

Source: www.h2ouse.org



WATER FOR PEOPLE

We have all seen the effects of severe drought throughout the Southeast. Fortunately, we have never been without drinking water. Many people worldwide aren't so lucky. According to the World Health Organization, there are 1.1 billion people who don't have access to potable water and 2.6 billion lack adequate sanitation. Every day, 5,000 people die from water-related illnesses - nearly 2 million each year - and the majority are children.

In 1991, members of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) founded Water for People, a nonprofit international organization to help people in developing

countries. In 2006, Water for People served more than 98,000 people through the development of locally sustainable drinking water resources, sanitation facilities and health/hygiene education programs.

As a member of AWWA, BJWSA supports this global commitment. Water For People programs are helping to expand the consciousness of the worldwide community and to improve the health of neighbors in need of life's most basic essential – clean water.

For more information, visit www.waterforpeople.org

NewsSPLASH



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WHAT IS THAT PINK STUFF ON MY BATHROOM FIXTURES?

That “pink stuff” that you may be seeing around your sink drains or in your toilets is naturally occurring airborne bacteria that has nothing to do with the quality of your water. These bacteria thrive on moisture, dust, and phosphates. Once airborne, these bacteria seek moist environments to grow.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Always keep bathtubs and sinks wiped down and dry. The best solution to curtail the onset of these bacteria is continual cleaning with a cleaning solution that contains chlorine. Three to five tablespoons of chlorine bleach can

be periodically stirred into the toilet tank and flushed in to the bowl itself. Cleaning and flushing with chlorine will not necessarily eliminate the problem, but will help control the bacteria growth. If you have a septic tank, use a non-chemical cleaner, such as borax to avoid damaging your septic system.

Important! Be sure to follow the manufacturer’s cleaning instructions for your plumbing fixtures and countertops; chlorine cannot be used with some designer products. Use care with abrasives to avoid scratching fixtures, which will make them even more susceptible to bacteria.

USE WATER WISELY... EVERY DROP COUNTS!

