

# MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMISSION

CITY OF NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE 19720-0208  
P.O. BOX 208

[www.newcastlemsc.com](http://www.newcastlemsc.com)

Office: 302 323-2330 Utility Building: 302-323-2333 Fax: 302-323-2337

June 29, 2015

Mr. John T. Barndt, P.G.  
Water Supply Coordinating Council, Chair  
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
Division of Water  
Water Supply Section  
89 Kings Highway  
Dover, Delaware 19901

Re: Certification of Self Sufficient Water Supply through 2018

Dear Mr. Barndt:

In July 2003, House Bill 118, the Water Supply Self Sufficiency Act of 2003, was signed into legislation. HB 118 required larger municipalities to submit information regarding their water conservation plan and water supply self-sufficiency declarations to the Water Supply Coordinating Council (WSCC) by July 1, 2006 and every 3 years thereafter.

Although the legislation does not apply to the Municipal Services Commission (MSC) because of our size, as a member of the Water Supply Coordinating Council and following the spirit of the law, we are voluntarily filing our Certification of Self-Sufficiency. The following information demonstrates the MSC Water System has adopted Water Conservation Rates, a Water Conservation Plan, and certifies adequate water supply is available for our customer's through July 2018.

## **Water Conservation Rates**

In 2001, the MSC instituted our water conservation rate structure for the months of July, August, and September for our residential water customers.

Every three (3) years, outside consultants are utilized to perform Rate Studies for the MSC. The specific purpose of these studies are to determine future revenue requirements, review rate classes, make recommendations on rate adjustments, and review monthly customer charges for each classification.

## **Water Conservation Plan**

The MSC's Water Conservation Plan was developed utilizing the United States Environmental Protection Agency's published Guidelines. The plan reviews with our customers the necessity of partnering with the Commission to reach our goal of providing cost effective, adequate, and reliable supplies of high quality water.

The following methods of communication are used to raise customer awareness:

- 1) The Commission's Main Office has copies of the Conservation Plan available.
- 2) The Commission's Web Page.
- 3) The Commission's News Letter
- 4) The New Castle City Paper.

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In addition to promoting the Conservation Plan as a Win-Win partnership, the MSC offers assistance to our customers where feasible with trouble shooting possible water leaks within their property and utilizes modern test equipment to ensure the accuracy of our water meters.

In 2006, the MSC changed from quarterly to monthly billing for our water customers. This change has proven to be very valuable in assisting both the MSC and our customers with identifying high meter consumption possibly caused by a malfunctioning appliance with in their home or facility.

## **Certification of Adequate Water Supply**

MSC has reviewed our water use history, potential growth within our service territory, current available capacity, and current Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) allocation for certification of self-sufficiency. MSC is confident to certify we have sufficient capacity to supply our customers through 2018.

MSC has based our Certification declaration upon the following information:

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| 1) Average Daily Demand for 2014              | .45MGD |
| 2) Peak Day Demand for 2014                   | .79MGD |
| 3) Average Daily Demand for 2012 through 2014 | .46MGD |
| 4) Peak Day Demand for 2012 through 2014      | .87MGD |

The Commission's current DRBC allocation of 1.6MGD, production capability of 1.6 MGD, and a 2014 peak demand of .79MGD gave the Commission a reserve capacity of more then .81MGD. Based upon the projected peak water demand of .95MGD, the Commission has an estimated surplus of .65MGD to meet our customer's unexpected demands.

## **Water Supply**

The MSC's water source is derived from 3 wells located within City Limits. 2 Wells are located on the Penn Farm and 1 well is located on Basin Road. Frenchtown Road Well is located at 825 Frenchtown Road and School Lane Well is located at 709 School Lane both of which draw water from the Middle Potomac Aquifer. Basin Road Well is located at 800 East Basin Road and draws water from the Upper Potomac Aquifer. All 3 wells supply our School Lane Treatment Facility with a combined capacity of 1.6MGD.

The MSC completed a comprehensive evaluation of our wells, storage tanks, and treatment facility in 2006 and began a 5 year rehabilitation of all our water system facilities which was completed in 2011. Included in this rehabilitation was returning to service our Basin Road Well adding an additional .3MGD and installing an altitude valve in our Gray Street Tank that added an additional 0.1MGD of finished water storage.

Recognizing in 2012 the average age of our 3 wells was approaching 45 years of service and the potential for future development within City Limits, MSC believed that a failure of one of our 2 larger wells (400gpm or 500gpm) would leave the MSC vulnerable during periods of peak demand. After careful consideration, the MSC moved forward with drilling and developing a new water supply well on the Penn

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Farm to complement our 2 larger wells. This new well named Cross Roads Well is located at 731 Frenchtown Road and takes its supply from the Middle Potomac Aquifer with a capacity of 500gpm. This new well is scheduled for completion in fall 2015.

Attached are a copy of our Water Conservation Plan, Water System Overview, and our most recent Water System Allocation and Capacity Evaluation documents to further demonstrate our Certification of Self Sufficiency through July 2018.

A copy of our most recent Newsletter including our 2015 Consumer Confidence Report is also attached.

Should you have questions or concerns, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Jay Guyer  
Water Supervisor

Cc: Gerald J. Kauffman, PE – Water Resource Agency  
Pamela A. Patone – Municipal Services Commission Secretary / General Manager  
File

Enclosures: Water Conservation Plan  
Water System Overview  
Water System Allocation and Capacity Evaluation  
MSC Newsletter including our 2015 Consumer Confidence Report