

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Karen Larimore Wilkinson

City of Salisbury PIO

Public Information and Communications

City Hall, 217 South Main Street

Salisbury, North Carolina 28144

Work Phone: 704-638-2113 Cell: 704-213-1050

Home Phone: 704-633-7123

Information: <http://www.salisburync.gov>

Work Email Contact: kwilk@salisburync.gov

City of Salisbury Issues a Water Conservation Alert

Yesterday's Windstorm Created Damage to Duke Energy Transformer at Salisbury-Rowan Utilities River Pump Station Facility.

Salisbury, NC_January 8, 2009 – The City of Salisbury has issued a request as of 4:30 pm today, for Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) customers and users to initiate Level Two Mandatory Water Conservation measures immediately. Heavy winds, which tore through the Salisbury-Rowan region late yesterday afternoon, created electrical damage to the Duke Energy transformer located at the SRU river pump station facility. Duke Energy has responded by supplying additional transformers from the Toddville facility in Charlotte, NC. SRU has implemented and will continue to utilize their established back-up plan by employing temporary diesel pumps until full power can be restored and electrical systems repaired. City contractors are currently on-site and surveying the river pump station's electrical system.

Mandatory Level II Water Conservation Efforts and Restrictions are currently in effect:

- Household water shall be reutilized to the greatest extent possible for watering.
- Faucets shall not be left running while shaving, brushing teeth, or washing dishes.
- The use of washing machines and dishwashers shall be limited. These units should be operated with full loads when used.
- Irrigation of lawns and ornamental trees or plants shall not be done except during the hours of 9 pm – 4 am. Variances for commercial irrigation may be issued and revoked by the Utilities (SRU) management depending on the severity of the situation.
- Planting of new ornamental plants or trees or seeding of lawns shall be deferred until after the water emergency no longer exists.
- Use of water for wash down of outside areas is prohibited.
- Noncommercial washing of cars and other vehicles shall be prohibited except on Saturdays and Sundays. Commercial washing facilities, including those providing handheld washing nozzles, may continue normal operation. However, commercial operations shall ensure that water is not wasted.

- Commercial and industrial operations shall eliminate all possible wasting of water.
- Newly constructed or drained pools shall be filled by permit only. Fill permits shall be issued by the utility (SRU) business office and issuance of permits may be curtailed depending of the severity of the situation.

The City of Salisbury will continue to issue updates regarding the status of repairs and the need for conservation efforts by water users. Citizens and Salisbury-Rowan Utilities customers and users with questions or concerns may contact the SRU Hotline and speak with Services Manager Patrick Kennerly at 704-202-4660. Salisbury-Rowan Utilities currently serves residential and business customers in the cities of Rockwell, Salisbury, Spencer, East Spencer, and Granite Quarry. Other client communities served by SRU have been notified and have agreed to curtail water usage. In addition, the Statesville Emergency Interconnection has been activated. As a courtesy, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has been notified.

The Salisbury Fire Department has met with all area volunteer departments and unnecessary water usage has been limited and restricted. In addition, the department has initiated established procedures to ensure an adequate supply of water in the event of a major fire emergency.

SRU has suspended all water intensive residual operations and flushing activities until further notice.

The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and over 400 full-time positions. For more information regarding the City, its services or career opportunities, please visit the City of Salisbury on the World Wide Web at www.salisburync.gov.

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