



CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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City of New Britain issues Water Supply Alert

NEW BRITAIN— Mayor Erin E. Stewart and New Britain Water Department Director Gil Bligh announced today that the City has issued a “Water Supply Alert”—the first of five drought response stages. The designation does not institute mandatory water conservation measures, but officials are urging residents to still be cautious about their water usage.

“We have been receiving a lot of inquiries from residents who have seen how low some of our reservoirs look,” said Bligh. “However, we still have an adequate supply of water. We urge residents to take voluntary water conservation measures, such as limiting the watering of things like lawns, gardens, driveways, and sidewalks.”

The Water Supply Alert is reached when the Water Department’s total storage in its reservoirs is between 15 percent and 25 percent below average when compared to previous levels in other years; the level as of Oct. 11, 2016 was measured at 22.9 percent below average.

“New Britain is not alone in being affected by this drought that has impacted much of the East Coast and United States,” said Mayor Stewart. “While our water supplies are low compared to previous years, we are actively monitoring usage and taking proactive steps at our many auxiliary water sources that are located both in New Britain and neighboring towns to supplement our supplies.”

If water supplies were to drop further and reached the 25 to 35 percent below average threshold, a Water Supply Advisory would be issued. The New Britain Water Department’s Emergency Contingency Plan would call for residential, commercial, and industrial customers to voluntarily reduce water consumption by 10 percent and to begin preparing for mandatory conservation.

The reservoirs are currently at around 39.72 percent capacity, according to Bligh.

The last time the New Britain Water Department issued a Water Supply Alert was on Nov. 27, 2007.

Historically, the New Britain Water Department’s annual low arrives around November 1 and typically rebounds to about 65 percent capacity after December 1.

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