



April 28, 2006

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ICPRB, through its Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations (CO-OP), coordinates water supply operations during times of drought and recommends releases of stored water. These operations ensure adequate water supplies for the major Washington metropolitan area water users and for environmental flow levels.

Summary/conclusions:

The probability of releases this summer and fall from the Washington metropolitan area’s back-up water supply reservoirs is slightly higher than normal. Generally, the use of Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs is triggered by low flows brought about by a combination of low summer rainfall, low precipitation in the prior 12-months, and low groundwater levels. At present, groundwater levels in the basin are at normal to below normal levels. Precipitation in the prior year has been below average in the Potomac basin, although April Potomac basin rainfall was above average. In the event that low-flow conditions continue through the summer, the metro area is well-protected from a water supply shortage because of carefully laid drought-contingency plans.

ICPRB outlook:

There is an eleven to twenty percent conditional probability that Potomac flow will drop below 600- to 700-million gallons per day (MGD) at Little Falls through December 31 of this year: at these flow levels, water supply releases from Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca Reservoirs become more likely. Releases occur when predicted flow is less than demand: demand is equal to 400 to 500 MGD withdrawn during the summer months, plus a 100 MGD minimum flow recommendation at Little Falls.

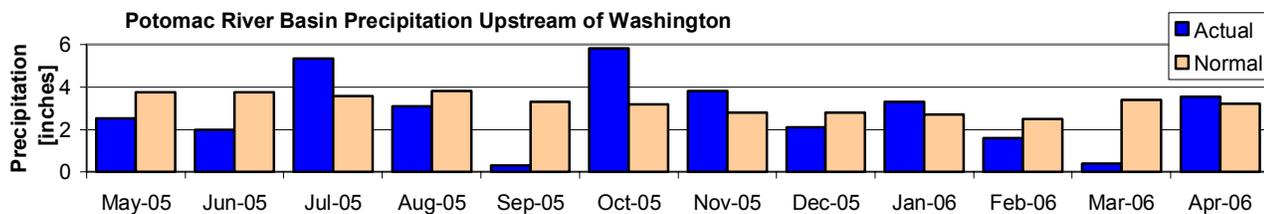
The conditional probability is estimated by analyzing the historical stream flow records and giving consideration to recent stream flow values, precipitation totals for the prior 12-months, current groundwater levels, and the current Palmer Drought Index. Past years in which watershed conditions most closely resemble current conditions are weighted more heavily in the determination of conditional probability. The historical probability is based on an analysis of the historical stream flow record without weighting for current conditions. The conditional probability of eleven to twenty percent compares to a historical probability of ten to sixteen percent and is considered the more reliable indicator.

Outlook for Potomac River at Little Falls – Watershed conditions as of April 1, 2006

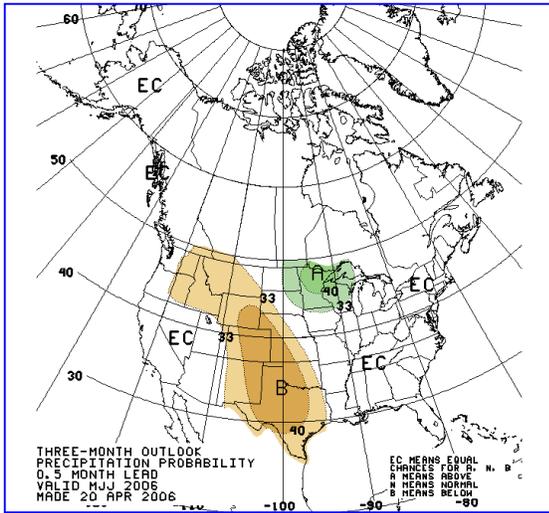
Low flow threshold (MGD)	Historical probability of lower flow April 1 through December 31	Conditional probability of lower flow April 1 through December 31
1200	67%	71%
1000	52%	59%
800	27%	33%
700	16%	20%
600	10%	11%

Precipitation summary for the Potomac basin (statistics through April 27):

The National Weather Service’s Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center reports that precipitation in the Potomac basin upstream of Washington, D.C. was 0.3 inches above normal in April (as of April 27). Precipitation has been approximately 4.6 inches below average for the prior 12 months (May 1, 2005 through April 27, 2006), for a total of 33.8 inches.



Data source: Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center, NWS



Precipitation and temperature outlook for May, June, and July:

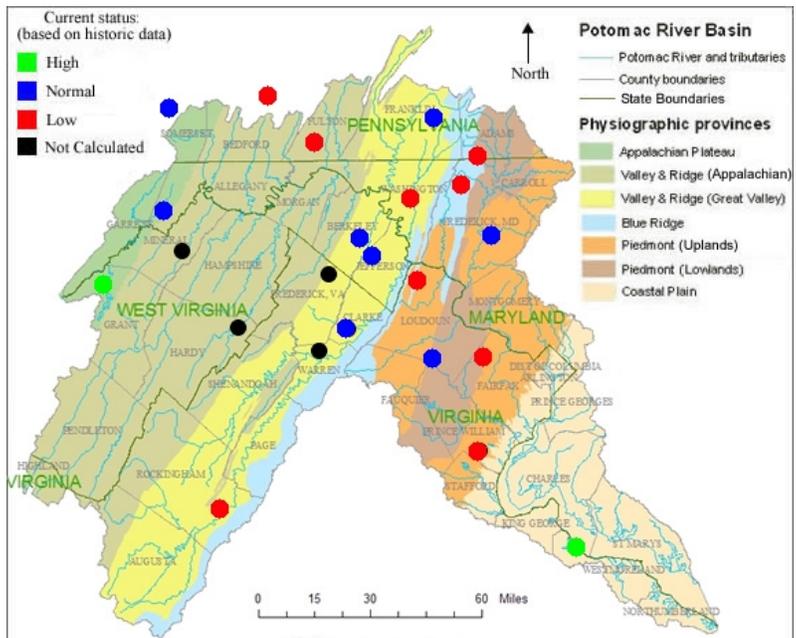
The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts approximately equal chances of Potomac basin precipitation and temperature being either above or below normal for May, June, and July.

(Image source: CPC. "EC" means equal likelihood or chance, and "A" and "B" correspond to above and below normal likelihoods, respectively.)

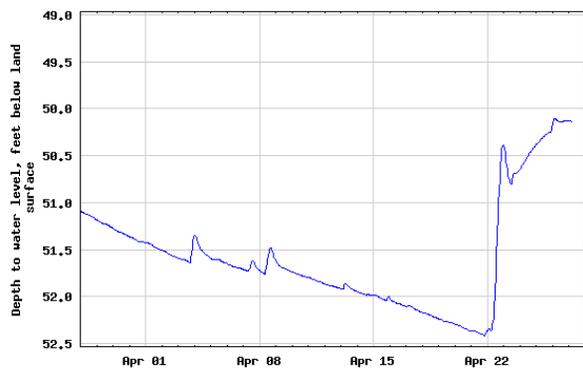
Groundwater:

Groundwater levels are at "normal" to "low" levels throughout the basin as shown in the image at right (as of April 18th). A soaking rainfall on April 21 and 22 has since increased groundwater levels throughout the basin. However, the real-time wells used for calculating the conditional probabilities for the outlook are below normal, on average. The Great Valley has the best (highest) baseflow characteristics during droughts. Recent levels in the two "low" groundwater wells in this province are shown below.

(Image sources: United States Geological Survey. USGS defines "high" as greater than 75th percentile, "normal" as between the 25th and 75th percentiles, and "low" as less than the 25th percentile.)

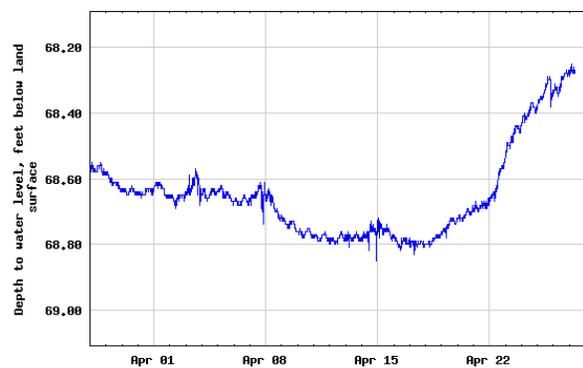


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Provisional Data Subject to Revision

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Provisional Data Subject to Revision

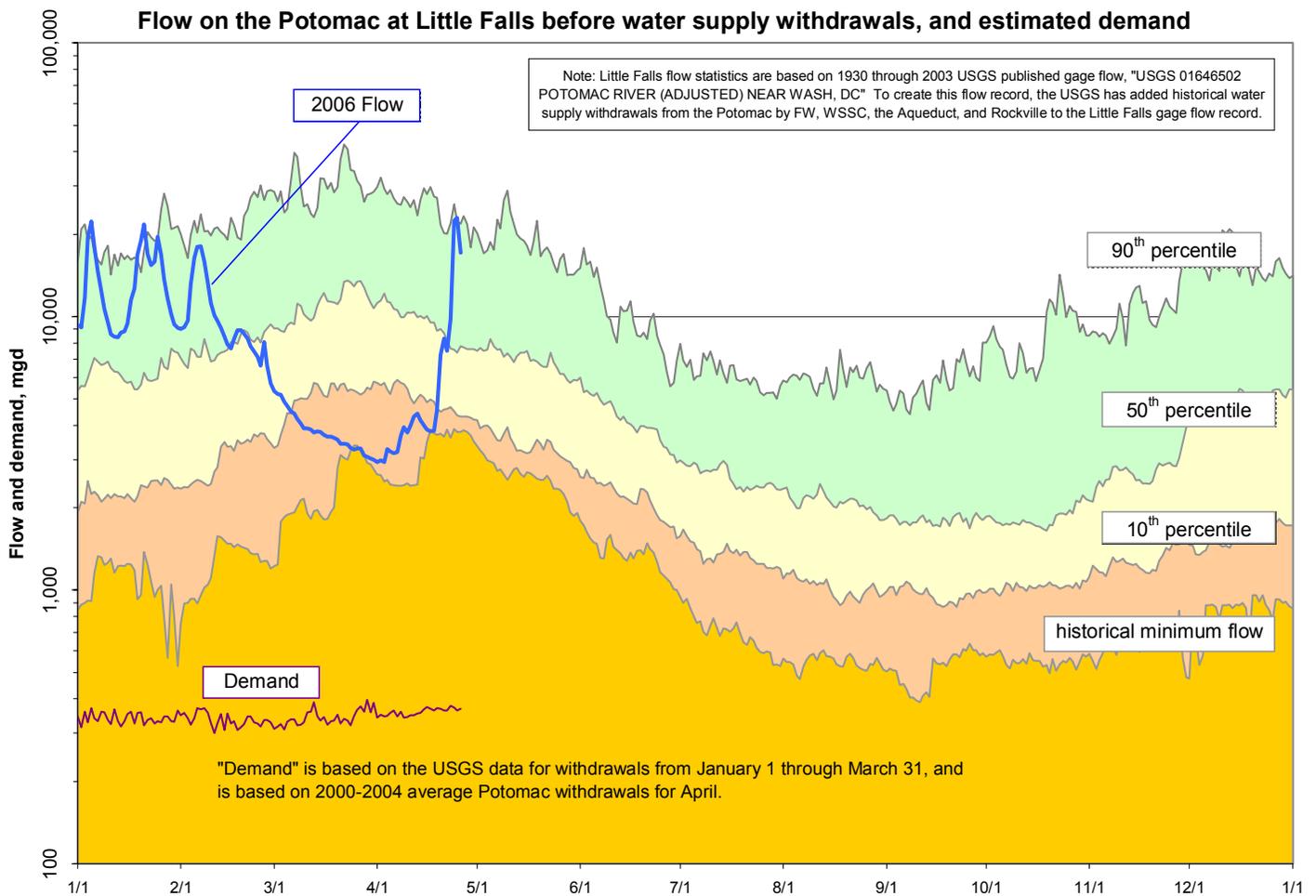
Reservoir Storage:

Facility	Percent Full	Current usable storage, bg	Total usable capacity, bg
WSSC's Patuxent reservoirs	74	7.5	10.2
FCWA's Occoquan Reservoir	100	8.0	8.0
Little Seneca Reservoir	100	3.8	3.8
Jennings Randolph water supply	100	13.3	13.3
Jennings Randolph water quality	100	16.5	16.5
Savage Reservoir	100	6.2	6.2

Note: Patuxent reservoirs are drawn down for maintenance.

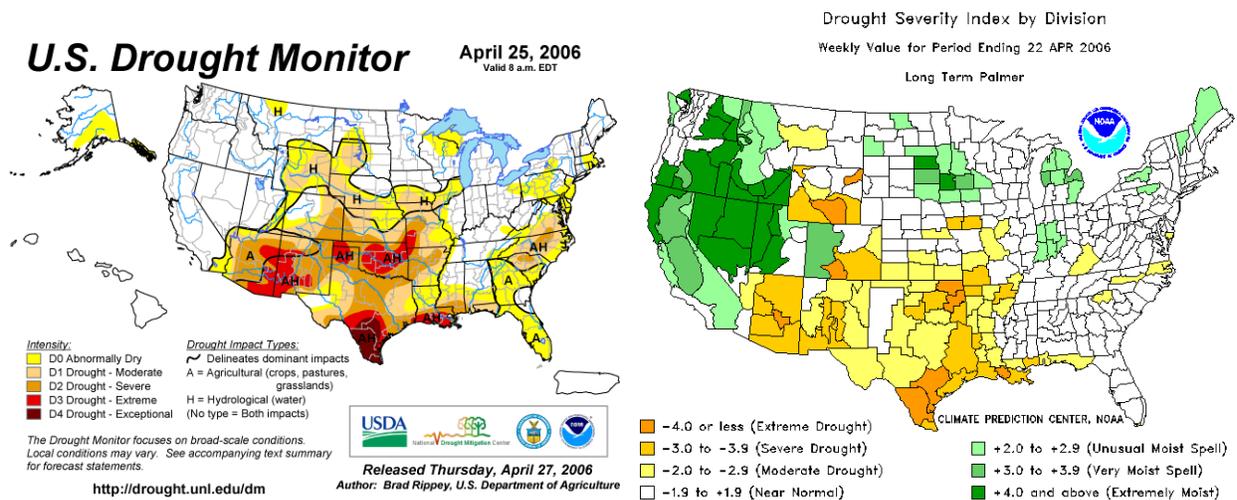
Potomac River flow

Estimated daily Potomac flow dropped below historical daily low flow levels on March 25 and 26 and again on April 17 (See graphic below). Recent rainfall has resulted in Potomac flow levels near the 90th percentile on April 25th. Estimated flow is the flow that would have occurred before water supply withdrawals, and is based on estimated withdrawal data and on provisional Little Falls gage data.



Drought Monitor and Soil moisture

The current Drought Monitor from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC) shows that the Potomac basin upstream of Little Falls is mostly in normal status, with a portion of the basin in “abnormally dry” status (“D0” status). (See image below at left.) The Palmer Drought Severity Index shows near normal conditions in the basin. (See image below at right.)



Drought Status:

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Government’s Drought Awareness Response Plan status is “Normal.” The drought status would change to “Watch” if the CPC’s drought monitor shows the entire Potomac basin in D-1 status.

Environmental Flow-by

Average Potomac flow at Little Falls in April (provisional, through April 27) was approximately 9,280 cubic feet per second (6,000 MGD) approximately 60 times the minimum flow recommendation of 100 MGD.