Keowee-Toxaway River

Basin enters Stage 1 drought

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Lake residents asked to limit irrigation withdrawals

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SENECA — Residents on lakes Keowee and Jocassee are being asked to limit water withdrawals for irrigation purposes to two days a week, on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

The Keowee-Toxaway Drought Management Advisory Group announced Monday that due to months of reduced rainfall and hot temperatures, and the U.S. Corps of Engineers recently declaring Level 1 of their drought plan for the downstream federal projects, the Keowee-Toxaway River Basin has entered Stage 1 drought.

Stage 1 is the second of five drought stages outlined in the KT Low Inflow Protocol. Stage 0 was reached on June 30.

The Low Inflow Protocol is a regional drought management plan used by major water users in the Keowee-Toxaway river basin to share responsibility and set priorities for water conservation. The plan outlines specific actions for each stage.

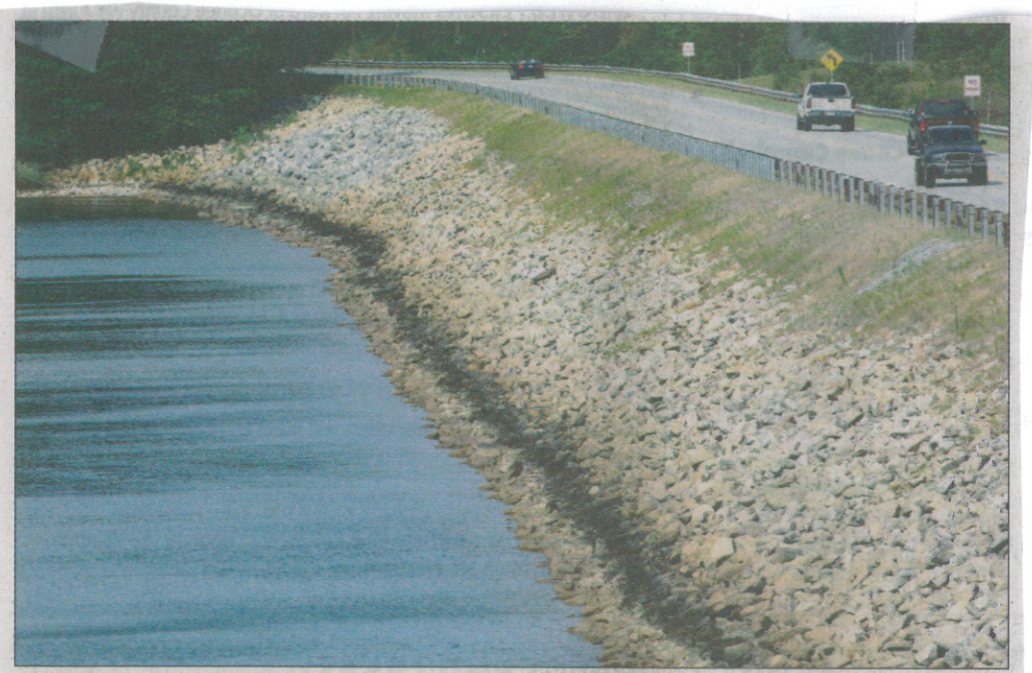
In the current drought stage, voluntary water conservation is recommended for water users across the basin.

Other large water users in the basin, as a goal, will adjust their practices to limit water withdrawals, according to a news release from the advisory group.

"We support a collaborative approach to ensuring the availability of our region's water resources," said Olivia Vassey, of Greenville Water. "We will continue educating our customers on using water wisely and promoting smart conservation practices."

Stages of the Low Inflow Protocol are based on defined triggers, including

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Months of reduced rainfall and hot temperatures have led to a Stage 1 drought declaration for lakes Keowee and Jocassee.