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### **Mandatory Water Restrictions Take Effect on August 11 in Millbury**

Millbury, MA. – Aquarion Water Company is increasing their outside watering restrictions beginning on Thursday, August 11.

These new more stringent restrictions will replace the partial water ban which was implemented on May 1st, and allowed residents and businesses to use water after 5 pm and before 9 am on odd or even days, based on their home address.

The new water ban will prohibit all outdoor watering devices, including: irrigation systems, sprinklers, and soaker hoses. The use of these systems will not be allowed. However, the ban does not include the use of hand held watering devices. Hand held watering will be allowed for all outdoor water activities, at any time.

The ban will be enforced in accordance with Aquarion's Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities approved Rules and Regulations. Failure to comply with the mandatory restrictions will first result in a written warning. Subsequent violations can result in the discontinuance of water service with termination and restoration fees ranging from \$49.00 to \$294.00, depending on the day of the week, time of day, and holidays.

“Groundwater levels across the region, including our water supply wells in Millbury, are unseasonably low at this time, due to lower than normal rainfall. The water supply in Millbury (supplemented with Worcester water) is adequate to meet current demands. These restrictions are being implemented to ensure there is sufficient water for everyday usage if the drought conditions continue,” said Steve Olson, Aquarion's Director of Operations for Massachusetts.

Last month, the state of Massachusetts declared a Drought Watch for most of the Central MA region based on unusually dry summer conditions. In addition, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) indicated that there is a severe drought in the region. The Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force will be meeting later this week to discuss the situation further. Many Blackstone Valley communities have enacted similar water restrictions based on the ongoing drought. Tips for conserving water and limiting non-essential water use can be found on DEP's website:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/watersheds/tips-for-saving-water-indoors-and-outdoors.html>

***About Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts:***

*A division of Aquarion Water Company, Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts is the public water supply company for more than 50,000 people in the towns of Hingham, Hull, and a section of North Cohasset, Millbury, and Oxford. Aquarion Water Company is the largest investor-owned water utility in New England and among the seven largest in the United States. Based in Bridgeport, Conn., it has been in the public water supply business since 1857. Across its operations, Aquarion is a responsible steward of the environment and assists the communities it serves in promoting sustainable practices.*

*For more information on Aquarion Water Company, please visit [www.aquarionwater.com](http://www.aquarionwater.com).*

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