

NWC URGES CONSERVATION AS HOT SUMMER MONTHS TAKE TOLL

The National Water Commission is urging its customers across the island to continue to conserve on their use of water especially in view of water supply shortages often experienced during the hot, dry summer months.

Several water supply systems operated by the National Water Commission across the island are now experiencing difficulty in meeting the water demand as a result of a combination of limited rainfall and increased water demand during the summer.

The NWC is quick to point out that the situation varies widely from parish to parish and even within parishes, challenging the Commission's ability to move potable water from where it is available to areas in which it is most needed. While the extent to which customers are affected is dependent on the particular system that serves them and varies from area to area, many of the Commission's smaller surface sources are the worst affected.

Water supply services around the world are always susceptible to extreme weather conditions, and the variably dry conditions affecting sections of the island has caused some water supply sources to dwindle or dry-up entirely, the NWC explains.

Clarendon, St. Thomas, sections of St. Elizabeth and rural St. Andrew are among the worst affected areas.

In order to limit the effects of the dry summer months, the NWC has already initiated a number of water management measures. Please see attached schedule for details.

Starting next week, customers served by the Hermitage/Constant Spring System will experience nightly restrictions between 10 P.M. and 4 A.M.

According to the National Water Commission, every effort is being made by the operations team to maintain piped supply at least on a regulated basis. Where this is not possible, the NWC seeks to truck water into the worst affected areas. " The situation is very difficult. But, understanding and conservation on the part of all customers will help greatly especially during these dry summer months, " acknowledges an NWC spokesman.