



## press release

Haworth, NJ, 10/24/16

### **DROUGHT WARNING DECLARED IN 14 NEW JERSEY COUNTIES** *Water Conservation Tips Available for Customers*

SUEZ is urging its customers in northern New Jersey to conserve water following an administrative order signed Friday by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) declaring a drought warning for 14 New Jersey counties.

“Although water usage tends to drop as we head for colder months, northern New Jersey reservoir levels are significantly lower than usual,” said Laurent Carrot, vice president and general manager of SUEZ. “We are ensuring that we have enough water by carefully managing existing supplies and utilizing established interconnections to other systems, but customer cooperation is key to making sure that we continue to have enough.”

Carrot explained that since Sept. 1, the Oradell Reservoir, one of three reservoirs that serve approximately 850,000 customers in the region, had dropped nearly 15 percent in overall storage capacity. Last week the reservoir dropped below its lowest level in 2015, down to 43.1 percent. As of Monday morning, capacity had increased back up to 45.75 percent.

The NJDEP issued a drought watch last month but upgraded it to a drought warning last week, as water supplies in the region have become increasingly stressed during this prolonged dry spell. Several months of lower-than-average precipitation, combined with often higher-than-average temperatures have resulted in low capacity in bodies of water throughout much of the state, including SUEZ’ reservoirs.

“While we currently have enough water to meet our customers’ needs, we urge everyone to use water wisely – especially now,” said Carrot.

Simple steps customers can take to conserve include:

- Closing the faucet while brushing your teeth, shaving or washing your face. This one tip can save up to 3,000 gallons per year.
- Shortening shower time by a minute or two, which can save up to 150 gallons per month. A short shower uses less water than taking a bath.
- Putting food coloring in the toilet tank. If colored water appears in the bowl without flushing, there’s a leak that needs repairing.

For additional conservation tips, visit [mysuezwater.com](http://mysuezwater.com) and select the “Water in My Area” tab, or visit [www.nj.gov/dep/drought](http://www.nj.gov/dep/drought).



*Oradell Reservoir in Harrington Park*