

City of Bloomington Water Department

Drought Report - October 2012

- McLean County improved to the “abnormally dry” drought condition at the end of the month, according to the US Drought Monitor reports released every Thursday. The U.S. Drought Monitor is a national drought monitoring organization made up of government agencies and academia. In April, McLean County was in an "abnormally dry" condition and the drought has progressed through the "moderate drought" condition in May to the "severe drought" condition in June and early July and the condition worsened to the extreme drought condition in late July through August. With the rainfall from the remnants of Hurricane Isaac in early September, the drought condition improved to the moderate condition and improved again at the end of October to the abnormally dry condition.
- For the month of October, we received about 5.05 inches of rain. This is well above normal for the month. Most of this was received in a series of small rainfall events. The soil moisture has been restored so we are seeing runoff from even small rainfall events.
- The pumpage in October was the second lowest in the last five years so it appears as though our customers are continuing to heed the call for voluntary restrictions. The monthly averages, in Million Gallons per Day (MGD), were as follows:

2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
10.0	10.2	11.6	9.6	10.6

- The combined deficit in the reservoirs at the end of the month was about 8.2 feet below their spillway crests. The month started with the reservoirs being a combined 9.3 feet below their spillway crests. With the reservoir levels where they are at this time (>8 feet below the spillway levels but <10 feet), we remain in a Stage 1 water emergency condition, meaning we are still asking for voluntary restrictions from our customers.
- As a comparison, the levels in the two reservoirs in 1988 were well below what we are experiencing this year. At the end of October in 1988, the reservoirs were at an actual combined 18.7 feet below their respective spillways. Additionally, the Evergreen Lake reservoir spillway had not yet been raised by five feet so it actually was 5 feet lower than it is today. Therefore, the 1988 comparison being “equalized” (assuming 5 feet more of water) yields a comparison that is 23.7 feet down.

Date	2012 combined reservoir levels	1988 actual combined reservoir levels	1988 equalized combined reservoir levels
October 1	-9.3	-16.5	-21.5
October 30	-8.2	-18.7	-23.7

- The flow in the Mackinaw River at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gage near Congerville has been above the minimum to allow for sustained pumping from the pumping pool. The flow, by permit, must be at least 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) before we can start pumping. We have pumped about 150 million gallons (approximately 2 weeks of supply under average consumption rates) from the Mackinaw River into the Evergreen Lake Reservoir in October.