

# City of Bloomington Water Department

## Drought Report - September 2012

- McLean County remained in the moderate drought condition throughout 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 drought condition.
- For the month of September, we received about 5.5 inches of rain, but most of this was in one storm and there was very little runoff due to the extremely dry soil conditions.
- The pumpage in September was the lowest in the last four years so it appears as though our customers are heeding the call for voluntary restrictions. The monthly averages, in Million Gallons per Day (MGD), were as follows:

2009	2010	2011	2012
11.0	12.2	11.6	10.9

- The combined deficit in the reservoirs at the end of the month reached about 9.2 feet below their spillway crests. With the reservoir levels where they are at this time, we are in a Stage 1 water emergency condition, meaning we are asking for voluntary restrictions from our customers.
- As a comparison, the reservoir levels in the two reservoirs in 1988 were well below what we are experiencing this year. At the end of September in 1988, the reservoirs were a combined 16.3 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 actual comparison to 1988 is 16.3 feet down but the "equalized" (assuming 5 feet more of water) comparison is that the level is 21.3 feet down.

Date	2012 combined reservoir levels	1988 actual combined reservoir levels	1988 equalized combined reservoir levels
September 1	-8.4	-13.8	-18.8
September 30	-9.2	-16.3	-21.3

- The flow in the Mackinaw River at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gage near Congerville has been too low for sustained pumping from the pumping pool. The historical median flow for this time of year is about 20 cubic feet per second (cfs). The flow, by permit, must be at least 20 cfs before we can start pumping.