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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE      NEWS RELEASE      DECEMBER 13, 2012**

**Contact: Linda T. Worth, County Manager  
252-257-3115**

**WARREN COUNTY PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM CUSTOMERS REQUESTED  
TO VOLUNTARILY CONSERVE WATER**

Recently the Army Corps of Engineers declared drought conditions at Kerr Lake due to a deepening drought in Central and Western North Carolina and Virginia. There is little or no significant rain in the forecast for December; thus Kerr Lake water levels continue to drop. Its present level is 292.30 feet.

Warren County's drinking water comes from Kerr Lake. The lake's intake elevation is at 275.00 feet; therefore, it remains in good shape relative to the withdrawal of water and being able to provide its partners and customers with safe and reliable water. However, Warren County's Water Shortage Response Plan states that when the water level at Kerr Lake nears 294.00 feet, voluntary water conservation conditions exist.

Warren County Public Utilities is urging its customers to voluntarily conserve water until further notice. Voluntary conservation practices are needed now to ensure that water is available for critical uses and to prevent the need for mandatory restrictions. By using voluntary water conservation practices consumers can cut water use by as much as 10 percent with very little difficulty or inconvenience.

Some recommended voluntary conservation tips include:

1. When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water, don't let the water run while rinsing.
2. Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth.
3. Reduce water used per flush by installing toilet tank displacement inserts. A plastic water filled jug may often be used as an alternative.
4. Use sink and tub stoppers to avoid wasting water.
5. Keep a bottle of chilled water in the refrigerator for drinking.
6. Find and fix leaks in faucets and water using appliances.
7. Take shorter showers and shallow tub baths.

For a complete list of water conservation tips or for questions, please contact Warren County Public Utilities at 252-257-3645, Monday – Friday, between the hours of 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

**Voluntary water conservation is requested for all customers connected to Warren County's Public Water Supply, to include the Town of Norlina, the Town of Warrenton, and all other bulk water customers.**