

News and Current Events :: ISRAEL OFFERS ADVICE TO USA ON WORST DROUGHT IN 50 YEARS**ISRAEL OFFERS ADVICE TO USA ON WORST DROUGHT IN 50 YEARS - posted by Trekker, on: 2012/7/26 0:46**

UNITED STATES IN SERIOUS DROUGHT; ISRAEL CAN HELP

Israeli Water Desalination expert recommends solutions to the current drought in the US.

By Gideon Israel

First Publish: 7/25/2012, 9:11 PM

Water reservoirs in northern Israel

Flash 90

The New York Times reported recently that the current drought afflicting the United States, which has spread to more than half of the continental United States, is the most widespread drought in more than half a century - and it appears that conditions will worsen.

There have been forecasts of increased dry conditions over the central United States, a development which could lead to higher food prices and shipping costs. The government has declared nearly 1,300 counties across 29 states a federal disaster area as a result of the drought.

This declaration will allow farmers to apply for low interest loans to assist them financially through this difficult period. The breadth of this drought, which ranges from California to Arkansas and from Texas to North Dakota - spanning 55 percent of the continental US - is the largest area covered by such conditions since December 1956.

In light of these problems facing the United States, Avraham Tenne, Head of the Desalination Department in the Israel Water Authority, claims Israel can help.

"We have too much experience of drought years", says Tenne. "I would offer a few recommendations to the United States. First, educating people to use less water. The average consumption of water in the United States per person is three or four times the per person consumption in Israel. Most counties in a variety of states are finally coming to the realization that water is not an unlimited resource.

"Second is efficient irrigation systems. 90-95% of agriculture in Israel uses drip irrigation as opposed to only 5% in America. Arizona, a state with a population comparable to Israel (7 million people), consumes more than four times the amount of water per year that Israel consumes - Arizona 8.5 billion cubic meters, Israel 2 billion. In Arizona, they flood the desert, that's the way things are irrigated. It's a huge waste of water! Also, farmers should be pressured or encouraged to use sophisticated irrigation systems. One way of doing that is raising the price of water which is currently subsidized."

"The third recommendation is proper maintenance of water pipes. There is a 20% average leakage rate on water pipes in the US, not quite as bad as London which has a 40% average leakage, nonetheless twice the amount of leakage than that of Israeli water pipes. This is a big waste of water. What I mentioned here relates to clean water pipes. Regarding sewage water about 80% is reused in Israel for irrigation; this as opposed to America which reuses only 1% nationwide and even in big states like California, only 5%."

The US is worried about these issues and only last April, Tenne appeared at a conference in Arizona to try and offer solutions for the current water challenges. Yet, it would seem that if the US is aware of these issues and expending efforts to solve these problems, there would be some progress in deciding on a course to address these problems. Tenne bemoans the lack of progress caused by the drawn out bureaucratic process that is taking place in America.

"In California it has taken more than 15 years to decide to build a desalination plant. People need to know that there is a new means to produce water whose expedience has been proven in all areas." The urgency of this crisis worries Tenne who points out that it is NGOs, municipalities, and other interest groups who are slowing this process. But it is "drinking water that we are dealing with - not water used for recreational purposes. I drove by Lake Mead," reflects Tenne

e, recalling the reservoir located on the Colorado River about 30 miles southeast of Las Vegas, "and I wonder where Las Vegas will get their water from in a few years."

Tenne is thankful that in Israel, after 20 years of right decisions in the water field, Israel is on its way to becoming completely independent in supplying its own water. However, this change of direction didn't happen overnight in Israel either

Tags: Water ,desalination ,Israel Water Authority

Re: ISRAEL OFFERS ADVICE TO USA ON WORST DROUGHT IN 50 YEARS - posted by enid, on: 2012/7/26 4:55

You can almost sense his frustration at what is taking place, yet, what can he do? If they don't listen, they don't listen.

It is a workable solution. Israel has proved that themselves.

Ultimately however, everything lies in God's hands.

We know that, and we must not lose sight of it.

- posted by Coolwater, on: 2012/7/26 12:29

"We have too much experience in drought years". Says Tenne. "I would offer a few recommendations to the United States. First educating people to use less water. The average consumption of water in the United States per person is three or four times of the per person consumption in Israel. Most counties in a variety of States are finally coming to the realization that water is not an Unlimited resource.

FORT BUCHANAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

W.D Chvala Jr.
G.P Sullivan
K.L McMordy-Stoughton

Fort Buchanan an Army facility with a primarily mission to support troop mobilization, the Army Reserves, the National Guard, the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Buchanan. The post contains 2.2 million square feet of building space consisting primarily of administration, housing, schools, storage and other miscellaneous facilities. Fort Buchanan uses on average 8.9 million gallons of water per month or roughly over 100 million gallons per year.

In Fy 2003, the Directorate of Public works (DPW) decided to develop a water management plan (WMP), as required by Army regulations and Executive order. The Federal Energy Management Program US Army Southeast Region, and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory partnered with Fort Buchanan DPW to develop this plan.

The WMP identified several near term measures for action.

* Expand sub-metering on the Fort for billing and for utility management purposes

* Implement near-term water conservation measures, including;

-> Form on equipment pool of water - efficient toilets, urinals, and showerheads, to make replacement readily available. Work with maintenance, janitorial staff, and Army family housing to identify fixtures that need replacement. Go beyond minimum code-requirements in selecting water-efficient devices.

-> Require purchase of water - efficient appliances including horizontal-axis clothes, washers and efficient residential dishwasher because these appliances are provided by the Fort.

* Commit to the implementation of four of the FEMP Best Management Practices (BMPs). The four that are recommended for the Fort Buchanan are;

- > BMP #1 Public Information & Education Programs
- > BMP #2 Distribution System Audits and Leak Detection
- > BMP #3 Toilets and Urinals
- > BMP #4 Faucets and Showerheads

There are a number of long term actions that the DPW should carefully consider. These include the following;

- * Evaluate the recommendations for drought planning. Contingency planning, and force protection and integrate these in to the standard operating procedure for the DPW.
- * Evaluate current emergency planning and response procedure for responding to events on the site.
- * Evaluate the water system and other utility infrastructure for terrorism or other threats. Identify Capital Improvements Projects to protect the utility infrastructure.
- * Evaluate the possibility of automated Meter reading system for water and other utilities.

This document is meant to be a starting point for DPW to use to analyze water management practices and improve on the analysis as more data becomes available. The planning recommendations will need to buy-in from highest levels with DPW and command, and should be molded to fit the vision of Command and Planners on the post.

Executive order 13123, the document in and of itself is divided into three sections

1. Facility Characterization
2. Operations and Maintenance
3. Water Planning

Section I Facility Characterization describes the site mission, building, and population. It also analyzes water consumption based on billing data, and sub-metered data, and estimates un-metered uses. It represents a snapshot of the characteristics of the post during FY 2002 and FY 2003.

Section II Operations and Maintenance describes how to set water conservation goals, suggests potential water conservation measures, and discusses which of the FEMP Best Management Practices are appropriate for Fort Buchanan.

Section III Water Planning describes how to plan for a drought, how to do contingency planning, and how to protect the water system at the Fort.

This document is meant to be a starting point for DPW to use to analyze water management practices. The goal of DPW should be to take these results and improve upon the analysis over time. The planning recommendation will need to buy-in from the highest levels with DPW and command, and should be molded to fit the vision of Command and Planners of the post.

-Not drinking water...perhaps recreational but vitally important none the less.