



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

# **DROUGHT ASSISTANCE**

Public Law 84-99, as amended by Public Law 95-51

## **FACT SHEET**

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Local Administering Office:

Albuquerque, NM

**Who Can Apply:**

Any state faced with a serious threat to public health and welfare from a drought situation affecting their potable water supply system can apply. Assistance can only be temporary, and to meet minimum public health and welfare requirements. Water is transported only for human consumption. Water may not be provided for livestock, irrigation or commercial/industrial processing.

Applicant Requirements:

- State and local agencies must be making full use of their own resources, including the use of the National Guard elements, to transport water and resolve the situation.
- Applicant must be actively pursuing a permanent restoration of the water supply.
- Applicant's water distribution system may be publicly or privately owned.
- Applicant must furnish all required lands, easements, and rights of way.
- Applicant must make necessary relocations, and hold US Government free from damages.
- Applicant must operate and maintain, at their expense, all pipelines, pump stations, etc.
- Applicant must provide the water for transportation.

Assistance Limitations:

- USACE assistance is only supplemental to state and local efforts.
- Permanent restoration of water supply is a local responsibility.
- Water purchase and storage costs are not eligible for USACE assistance.
- USACE assistance is limited to work which is the most economical means to transport the temporary drinking water supply, and is limited to costs for water transportation via trucks, and/or construction and removal of temporary pipelines and pump stations.

What Assistance Is Available:

Within the conditions discussed, USACE is authorized to transport emergency supplies of clean drinking water for human consumption to any locality designated as a drought distressed area by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Tanker trucks or small diameter pipelines are normally used. USACE can also drill potable water wells (subject to availability of equipment), at full applicant's expense, if not commercially available locally.

How To Apply For Assistance:

Application for program assistance should be made to the USACE Districts listed above, but assistance is approved at Washington, D.C. level. The Governor, or his/her authorized representative, can initiate requests for investigations, in writing, to the District offices listed above. The Governor must request physical projects in writing to the local District Engineer. Sample letters in the required format are available from the local District office contact person listed above.