

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER 2017-12**

WHEREAS, Doug Burgum, Governor of the State of North Dakota, by the authority granted under Article V, Section 1 of the North Dakota Constitution, hereby declares a drought disaster for counties and tribal nations experiencing extreme and long-term drought conditions resulting in a D2, D3 or D4 rating by the United States Drought Monitor, as well as all adjacent counties and tribal nations; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Drought Monitor shows increasing portions of North Dakota to be in severe, extreme and exceptional drought; and,

WHEREAS, lack of precipitation and higher than average seasonal temperatures during the spring and summer months of 2017 are expected to continue through the fall; and,

WHEREAS, these extremely dry conditions have significantly and adversely impacted agriculture producers and agribusiness in the drought-affected counties and tribal nations; and,

WHEREAS, drought-related financial losses to the agricultural industry and agribusiness constitute a serious economic hardship for the entire state.

NOW THEREFORE, Doug Burgum, Governor of the State of North Dakota, hereby declares a drought disaster for drought-affected counties and tribal nations. All state agencies and administrators shall maintain agricultural drought resources and capabilities at high levels of readiness in order to execute their responsibilities pursuant to the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP). State officials shall coordinate with appropriate federal agencies to make appropriate drought response programs available.

In accordance with Section 37-01-04 and Chapter 37-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, the North Dakota National Guard is hereby authorized to provide personnel, resources, and equipment necessary to support state agencies and administrators in the response to this drought disaster.

This order is issued upon the following basis and for the following reasons:

- 1. The Governor is vested with the executive authority pursuant to Article V, Section 1, of the North Dakota Constitution; and
- 2. The governor is vested with statutory authority to issue executive orders, minimize or avert the effects of a disaster or emergency pursuant to Chapter 37-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code; and
- 3. A coordinated and effective effort of appropriate government departments is required to minimize the impact of emergencies and disasters in this state.
- 4. A drought disaster exists within the State of North Dakota.

This order shall take effect immediately, and remain in effect until it is rescinded.

Executed at Bismarck, North Dakota, this day of July, 2017.

Doug Burgum

ATTEST:

Secretary of State