



2026 Resource Planning Framework

Liberty Utilities (Missouri Water) LLC
d/b/a Liberty

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Purpose:

In compliance with the Stipulation and Agreement ordered by the Commission in Case Number WR-2024-0104 Liberty Utilities (Missouri Water) LLC “MO Water” provides this update on its Resource Planning efforts. Paragraph 12 requires MO Water to report:

“Resource Planning. Within one year following the effective date of new rates, Liberty will provide an update on the Company’s progress in developing a drought resiliency plan, with the goal of developing and filing such a plan in this docket (or the Company’s most recently filed rate case) two years thereafter. Liberty will prepare and file plan updates as Liberty deems necessary.”

Consistent with these commitments, MO Water is developing a drought mitigation approach to support a progress update in 2026 and a subsequent formal filing. As previously communicated to Staff, MO Water’s approach focuses on practical, affordable, and system-specific solutions rather than a statewide, one-size-fits-all plan.

Liberty Utilities – Drought Mitigation Road Map Toward Final Filing

This document summarizes the framework MO Water intends to follow in developing its formal Drought Mitigation Plan. This road map is not the final plan; rather, it outlines the strategic basis, key topics, and reference materials that will guide plan development over the next several years. MO Water intends to use established Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MODNR), as shown in [Appendix A](#), drought mitigation strategies and adapt them, as appropriate, to MO Water’s diverse and geographically dispersed water systems.

Foundational Basis for the Final Plan

The drought mitigation plan will be based primarily on strategies developed and tested by MODNR and other Missouri water utilities. MO Water intends to rely on these established frameworks as a starting point and customize them for individual systems based on size, source water, storage, and operational characteristics.

Key reference materials informing this road map include MODNR drought response frameworks and Company related testimony and compliance updates discussing mitigation, impact assessment, and response strategies.

Key Strategy Areas to Be Addressed

1. Mitigation (Pre-Drought Actions)

Mitigation activities are actions taken before drought conditions occur to reduce vulnerability and increase system resilience. Based on existing reference materials, MO Water anticipates evaluating and incorporating the following mitigation concepts into the final plan:

- Conservation and water efficiency programs and technical assistance.
- Prioritization of funding for conservation initiatives.
- Projects that increase storage, diversify supply sources, promote reuse, or support regionalization.
- Development of drought management expectations for individual service areas.

2. Impact Assessment

The final drought mitigation plan is expected to address how MO Water identifies and evaluates drought impacts during events. Impact assessment concepts under consideration include



standardized data collection, system performance monitoring, and post-drought evaluation of mitigation effectiveness.

3. Response and Operational Flexibility

While this road map does not define specific drought response triggers or restrictions, the final plan is expected to outline scalable response options aligned with drought severity. These responses will be tailored at the system level rather than imposed uniformly across all MO Water systems.

System Interconnections and Regional Resilience

Because most of MO Water systems serve small, isolated subdivisions, the Company is exploring interconnections with neighboring districts and municipalities as a strategy aimed at diversifying sources of supply for both MO Water and the partner system. Additionally, and where possible, MO Water is actively researching opportunities for interconnections between owned systems where feasible to improve drought resilience. Interconnections may provide operational flexibility during drought events by allowing systems to share supply or provide temporary support during localized shortages. The feasibility, cost, and practicality of interconnections will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and may be incorporated into the final plan where appropriate.

Customization by System

Given the small and dispersed nature of MO Water's systems, the Company does not anticipate a single prescriptive solution. Instead, the final drought mitigation plan will serve as a framework under which individual systems may apply different strategies depending on local conditions, infrastructure, and water supply characteristics.

Road Map to the Final Filing

This document serves as a planning road map leading to the Final drought mitigation plan filing. Key activities include continued review of MODNR drought plans, evaluation of MO Water system specific vulnerabilities, identification of practical mitigation options, and coordination between operations and regulatory teams.

