



Water Use Registration and Reporting

June 2011

New laws passed in 2008 established registration and reporting requirements for large water **withdrawals**. The new program expands existing requirements for high capacity wells to include all large water withdrawals from both groundwater and surface water. The new program is the foundation for achieving Wisconsin's goal to:

“Sustainably manage the quantity and quality of water in the state to ensure that water is available to be used to protect and improve our health, economy and environment now and into the future.”

What is the purpose of water use registration and reporting?

Information gathered through water use registration and reporting will be used to develop an inventory that will help Wisconsin answer the following questions about our water use.

- How much water are we using?
- Where are we using it?
- What are we using it for?

What is a withdrawal? What does it mean to withdraw?

Withdraw or withdrawal means the taking of water from surface water or groundwater. There are many different methods for withdrawing water including wells, intake pipes, and ditches. When someone withdraws water, it is taken out of or redirected from its natural course making it unavailable for other purposes, even if only temporarily.

What do you need to do?

1) Register your water withdrawals

- You must register if you have a water supply system (e.g. well or surface water intake pipe) with the **capacity** to withdraw 100,000 gallons per day (70 gallons per minute) or more.
- If you have an existing high capacity well approval or other DNR water withdrawal approval your withdrawal is already considered registered.
- You must register existing withdrawals **by June 30, 2011**.
- You must register a **new or increased** withdrawal with the DNR prior to beginning the withdrawal.

If you purchase all of your water from another system you are not required to register (or report) your water use.

2) Measure and track your withdrawals

- If you have a registered withdrawal you must measure or estimate the volume of water withdrawn every month.
- There are a range of options for measuring withdrawals including an option that allows for tailoring a measurement process on a case-by-case basis for challenging situations like aquaculture facilities and cranberry operations.

3) Report your monthly withdrawals

- You must report your monthly withdrawals annually to the Water Use Program within the DNR.
- Reporting for each calendar year is required by **March 1** the following year.

To Register or Report

To register or report your water use visit:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/greatlakes/registration.htm>

Online Registration and Reporting

In Fall 2011, online reporting will be available through the Water Use System.



Where can I get more information?

If you have questions concerning registration and reporting, please feel free to look over the Water Use Program's frequently asked questions and answers webpage:

dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/wateruse.html

Questions can also be directed to the Water Use Program at (608) 266-2299 or DNRWaterUseRegistration@wi.gov

