

Water Use Data Collection and Use

Kansas water use data are collected and published by the Division of Water Resources' water appropriation program.

Each year, about 14,000 water use report forms for 32,500 active water rights are mailed to water right holders for the 14 classified beneficial uses of water. The forms are to report water use for the year that just ended.

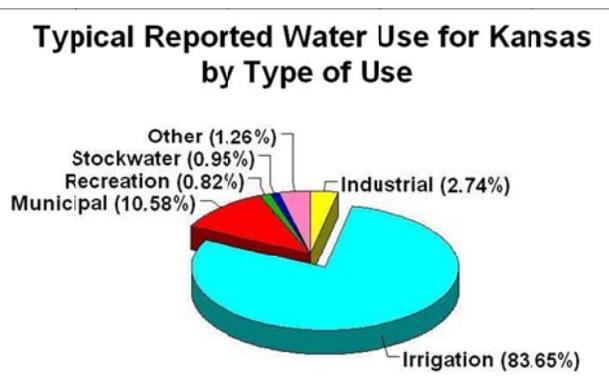
The largest water use category is irrigation. The other categories are municipal, industrial, hydraulic dredging, stockwatering, recreation, contamination remediation, artificial recharge, thermal exchange, dewatering, fire protection, water power, sediment control and domestic.

Online Water Use Reporting

Online reporting is available for all water use types except Hydraulic Dredging files –which DWR plans to have available in 2016. The online portal can be accessed at www.kswaterusereport.org and is open from the time the reports are mailed through the reporting deadline of March 1st. In order to access an online water use report, a PIN and Person ID number, which can be found on the lower left corner of the paper water use report, will be required. Terms and Definitions, as well as instructions are provided on the webpage, with links at the top of the page to help you navigate through the different parts of the report that may be required for specific uses made of water. Alternatively, water users can contact the Water Use section of DWR at (785) 564-6638 in order to obtain PIN and Person ID numbers and to receive guidance on filling out the report. Local DWR Field Offices are also available to answer questions. Online reporting offers a reliable and efficient way to submit most water use reports as required by Kansas Law. **Please only submit one form, (online or paper) not both.** In 2015, the first year of open online reporting, a total of 1,507 water rights reported via the online tool.

Mailing Water Use Report Forms

Each water use report form is preprinted with a name, address and water right file number pulled from the Water Right Information System database. The forms typically are mailed the first working week in January. Kansas law (K.S.A. 82-732) requires reports to be returned to the Division of Water Resources by March 1. About 94



percent of the reports are filed on time each year.

Timely Processing

When the forms are returned to the Division of Water Resources, preliminary data are entered into the database and the form is flagged to show it was filed on time. Each report is then reviewed by a water use unit staff member, who will analyze the report at face value. This process is called coding.

Coding is an extensive process. Each of the state's 48,100 points of diversion undergoes a first analysis by an environmental scientist, who codes the data for later classification, comparison and general inquiry. After the coding process is complete, the reports are returned to the data entry section for entry with the codes applied. All data entry must be complete by April 15 to meet deadlines related to interstate water compacts.

Delinquent Reports

The 5 percent to 6 percent of water use reports that do not get filed by March 1 enter the delinquent stage, which involves tabulation and notification through a series of communications from this office.

The first delinquent penalty letters are sent in mid-April and are grouped into two subcategories: those who have not filed a report at all; and those who have filed a report after the March 1 deadline. Currently, the civil penalty issued through these letters is \$50 per water right file number, if the report and penalty are received by June 1.

A second penalty letter is sent during mid-May to those who have not resolved the delinquent report and penalty. If penalties and reports are not filed by June 1, a civil penalty in the amount of \$250 is assessed, per file number, pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-732(b). Our success gathering this vast amount of data each year hinges on the serious and persistent pursuit of delinquent reports.

Quality Control

We use quality control checks to identify data problems like excessively high use, very low use or missing information. Also, Division of Water Resources environmental scientists communicate with water users to improve irrigation data integrity. The U.S. Geological Survey publishes municipal and irrigation data each year and a national water use report every five years.

Water Protection Fee

During July, stockwatering and industrial water use information is assembled and transmitted to the Kansas Department of Revenue for their annual water protection fee billings. K.S.A. 82a-954 authorizes the Department of Revenue to assess 3 cents for every thousand gallons of water under these uses. The Department of Revenue sends its bills around September 1 each year for the previous year's water use. The water protection fee generates about \$1.4 million a year for water related projects. Additional funding for the water protection fee is collected from other sources, and billings are based on data reported to this office.

Maintaining the Database

Throughout the year, the WRIS database is updated to reflect ownership or correspondent changes. There are about 3,000 such updates each year.

Who Uses Our Data?

The Kansas Water Use Reporting Program yields important information about how water is used in Kansas. Detailed data exists for ALL nondomestic water use:

- how much water is used
- where water is used
- how water is used

Water use details are used:

- to certify water rights
- to include check-off notices for chemigation
- in interstate compact administration
- for water banking
- for database maintenance within DWR
- in possible abandonment of water rights
- for compliance and enforcement activities

Other agencies using our water use data:

- Kansas Water Office
 - for water management and basin planning
 - to target technical assistance
- U.S. Geological Survey
 - for five-year national water use report
 - for present and future demands
 - for technical report modeling
- Kansas Geological Survey
 - to monitor statewide water levels
 - for technical report modeling
- Kansas Groundwater Management Districts
 - for local groundwater management district water use
 - for policy planning
- Kansas Rural Water Association
 - to identify candidates for technical assistance
- Kansas Department of Revenue
 - to help with property valuation
 - to assess water protection fee
- State Conservation Commission
 - to help irrigation efficiency
 - to help with best management practices
- Kansas State University
 - to identify candidates for technical assistance
 - for crop net irrigation requirements
- Cities and Public Water Suppliers
 - for peer comparison
- Kansas Corporation Commission
 - identifies energy type

Water Appropriation Program
Division of Water Resources
1320 Research Park Dr.
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 564-6700