

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.

Mailing Water Use Report Forms

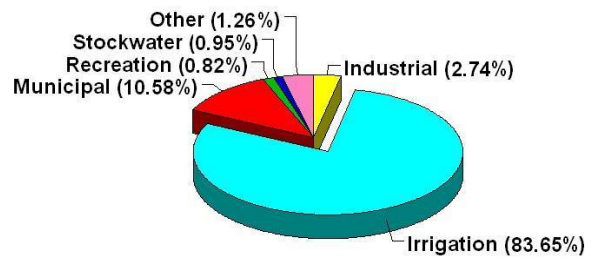
Each water use report form is preprinted with a name, address and water right file number pulled from the Water Right Information System database. The forms typically are mailed the first working day in January. Kansas law (K.S.A. 82-732) requires reports to be returned to the Division of Water Resources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

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 40,000 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

Typical Reported Water Use for Kansas by Type of Use



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, the matter is scheduled for legal prosecution to obtain the maximum penalty allowed under the statute, which is \$250 per file number. Our success gathering this vast amount of data each year hinges on the serious and persistent prosecution of delinquent reports.

Quality Control

We use quality control checks to identify data problems like excessively high use, very low use or

missing information. The U.S. Geological Survey finds our program valuable enough to provide a cooperative cost-share agreement to fund two part-time positions for quality control involving public water supply data. Also, one Division of Water Resources environmental scientist communicates 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 use 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