

Attachment 11

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Ecological and Water Resources Division
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Cambridge MN 55008
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To: Chisago County Plan Policy Team

Re: brief overview of DNR Water Appropriation Permitting and Well Interference.

A Water Use (appropriation) permit: from DNR Waters is required for all users withdrawing more than 10,000 gallons of water per day or 1 million gallons per year. Surface or Groundwater. All active water appropriation permit holders are required to measure monthly water use with an approved measuring device to an accuracy of 10 percent and report water use yearly. Minnesota Statutes allow local units of government 30 days to review permit applications and submit comments to DNR Waters.

There are several exemptions to water appropriation permit requirements:

- o domestic uses serving less than 25 persons for general residential purposes,
- o test pumping of a ground water source,
- o reuse of water already authorized by a permit (e.g., water purchased from a municipal water system), or
- o certain agricultural drainage systems (check with your area hydrologist for applicability).

Well interference resolution process: Most well interference problems tend to be localized and short in duration, but being without water is a major inconvenience and can cause damage to well pumps. Some problems can be resolved by lowering the pump in the well or installing a new well pump. Contact your Area Hydrologist to request a *Water Well Information and Complaint Questionnaire*

Minnesota Rules 6115.0730. Domestic well owners and municipal water suppliers that have problems obtaining water and believe the situation is due the operation of a high capacity well that pumps in excess 10,000 gallons per day or one million gallons per year can submit a well interference complaint to the Department for investigation.

Minnesota Statutes 103G.261 establish domestic water use as the highest priority of the state's water when supplies are limited.

(1) first priority, domestic water supply, excluding industrial and commercial uses of municipal water supply, and use for power production that meets the contingency planning provisions of section [103G.285, subdivision 6](#);

(2) second priority, a use of water that involves consumption of less than 10,000 gallons of water per day;

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- (3) third priority, agricultural irrigation, and processing of agricultural products involving consumption in excess of 10,000 gallons per day;
- (4) fourth priority, power production in excess of the use provided for in the contingency plan developed under section [103G.285, subdivision 6](#);
- (5) fifth priority, uses, other than agricultural irrigation, processing of agricultural products, and power production, involving consumption in excess of 10,000 gallons per day; and
- (6) sixth priority, nonessential uses.
 - b) For the purposes of this section, "consumption" means water withdrawn from a supply that is lost for immediate further use in the area.
 - (c) Appropriation and use of surface water from streams during periods of flood flows and high water levels must be encouraged subject to consideration of the purposes for use, quantities to be used, and the number of persons appropriating water.
 - (d) Appropriation and use of surface water from lakes of less than 500 acres in surface area must be discouraged.
 - (e) The treatment and reuse of water for nonconsumptive uses shall be encouraged.
 - (f) Diversions of water from the state for use in other states or regions of the United States or Canada must be discouraged.

Ground Water Level Monitoring Program. Collect baseline data on ground water level fluctuations and trends. Since 1944, DNR Waters has managed a statewide network of water level observation wells (obwells). Data from these wells are used to assess ground water resources, determine long term trends, interpret impacts of pumping and climate, plan for water conservation, evaluate water conflicts, and otherwise manage the water resource.

- http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/groundwater_level_monitoring_report_october_2009.pdf (Groundwater Level Monitoring Network
- Interest in partnering with County or observation sites.