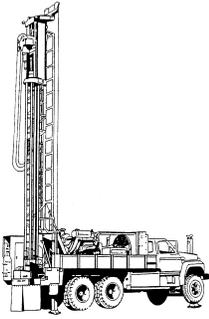




Water Use and Water Withdrawal Registered Contractor Fact Sheet



In July 2008, the Michigan Legislature passed amendments to Part 327, Great Lakes Preservation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. It amended the requirements for water use registration and water use reporting as well as established new environmental standards for the evaluation of large quantity withdrawals (LQWs) from either groundwater or surface water.

A property owner should use the following process before drilling a well in Michigan with the capacity to make a LQW greater than 100,000 gallons per day (70 gallons per minute or greater pump capacity):

1. Use the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool (WWAT)

The WWAT is an Internet based program designed to estimate the likely impact of a proposed water withdrawal on nearby streams and rivers. Every large quantity withdrawal must be evaluated using the WWAT to determine if the withdrawal is likely to cause an Adverse Resource Impact (ARI). An ARI can occur when a stream's ability to support its characteristic and thriving fish populations is impaired.

The WWAT can be accessed at <http://www.miwwat.org>. If it is determined that the LQW is likely to cause an ARI, request for a site specific review must be submitted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). A determination will be made by the MDEQ within 10 working days.

2. Register the Withdrawal with the MDEQ

A new or increased large quantity withdrawal must be registered before the withdrawal is constructed. Registration must be submitted online using the WWAT and must be completed by the owner of the property where the LQW is going to be developed.

LQWs with a capacity greater than 2 million gallons per day (1389 gallons per minute pump capacity) may be required to obtain a permit through the MDEQ.

Property owners must understand that failure to use the WWAT and register with the State of Michigan may result in significant monetary penalties.

For questions regarding LQW registration, contact Mr. Andrew LeBaron at 517-241-1435 or by e-mail at lebarona@michigan.gov.

3. Apply for Water Well Construction Permit from the Local Health Department (LHD)

The contractor should ensure the new or increased LQW registration has occurred before the water well construction permit is issued. The WWAT registration receipt should be brought to the LHD when applying for the permit. If registration information changes upon well installation, the contractor must provide this data to the property owner for amending the registration. The contractor should also note the LQW Registration ID on the well record.

4. Report Annually

All registered users will receive an invoice for \$200 and reporting form from the MDEQ to report the annual volume of the withdrawal by April 1 of each year.

Agricultural operations report to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and do not pay the reporting fee. For questions regarding reporting agricultural wells, contact Ms. Abby Eaton at 517-241-3933 or by e-mail at eatona@michigan.gov.

<http://www.michigan.gov/deqwateruse>