



Unreported Large Quantity Withdrawal (LQW) Initiative

Protect your water use rights, your land value, and your peace of mind – participate in the Unreported LQW Initiative today

Michigan has a duty to manage its waters effectively for the use and enjoyment of all present and future residents. Water is a vital resource and Michigan has a unique way to monitor its use: the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool (WWAT) under the Water Use Program. The Water Use Program and all water users benefit when all property owners using LQWs are participating as required by laws administered by Michigan's Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and Environmental Quality (DEQ).

What is an LQW?

An LQW is a groundwater or surface water withdrawal averaging 100,000 gallons per day (gpd; total rated pump capacity of 70 gallons per minute, gpm) or more in any 30 day period. Property owners with the potential capacity to make a new or increased LQW must register their withdrawal using the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool (WWAT).

What is the LQW Initiative?

This initiative is an effort to add previously unreported withdrawals installed prior to October 1, 2008, to the Water Use Program to improve its accuracy and give water users the opportunity to make sure they're complying with the law.

Why should I participate in this initiative?

- It's the law: property owners with LQWs have been required to report their water use since 2006 or earlier per Part 327, Great Lakes Preservation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.
- If you had an LQW installed before October 1, 2008, it will be considered baseline capacity and not a new use. Baseline capacity is an LQW reported to DEQ or MDARD by April 1, 2009.
- If your unreported LQWs are not added during this initiative, you will be required to register your LQW as a new use through the WWAT as required by law.

- If you have an unreported LQW and need to replace the pump or the well, you will not be able to do so without registering the LQW under the WWAT.
- Baseline capacity withdrawals reported under this initiative can be replaced by new withdrawals with the same or lower rated pump capacities, even in watersheds where no new uses can be authorized under current law.
- If your unreported LQW is found after April 1, 2018, you may be penalized for not reporting it. Failing to register a new or increased LQW and failing to annually submit LQW water use reports are separate violations of Part 327 subject to civil fines of \$1,000 per violation. The potential fines can quickly add up for property owners who did not report/register multiple LQWs.
- If a water users committee is formed, if there is civil litigation in a depleted watershed, or if water use is otherwise restricted, your LQW will be discovered. Following the regulations that apply to all LQW owners will protect your water use rights and the value of your land.
- Submitting annual water use reports is a required step to be verified in the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP).

Who is Eligible?

Property owners of LQWs that were installed prior to October 1, 2008. You will need to verify that the LQW was in place before October 1, 2008.

What is the time frame of this Initiative?

Between now and April 1, 2018.

How will my information be handled?

Agricultural LQWs are confidential and cannot be released to the public, even with a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), so the information you send to MDARD or DEQ under this initiative will stay confidential. Non-agricultural LQWs are subject to FOIA requests.

How do I Participate in this Initiative?

Complete the attached form and checklist. Please be aware that you may need to submit multiple pieces of information to document the location of your LQW, its rated pump capacity, and that it was in operation prior to October 1, 2008.

Mail the completed form, checklist, and supporting documentation to:

Penny Holt
Great Lakes Shorelands Unit
Water Resources Division
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30458
Lansing, MI 48909-7958

Or you can e-mail the completed form and checklist to: Penny Holt, MDEQ, WRD, holtp@michigan.gov.

If you have any questions about this initiative, please contact Penny Holt at 517-284-5562 or holtp@michigan.gov.

Attachments