

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
Environmental Stewardship Division
MAEAP WATER USE REPORTING – 2015



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Legal Authority: Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 327, as amended

Description of the Program:

- The Water Use Reporting Program requires all water users having a capacity to withdraw water quantities of 100,000 gallons per day or greater to report their use on an annual basis.
- Agricultural users report to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at no cost. All other industries report to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for a fee.
- Water users are required to submit their annual reports to the State of Michigan by April 1 of the following year.

Why it matters:

- On December 13, 2005, the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers signed Annex 2001, implementing agreements to provide unprecedented protections for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin. These agreements include a ban on new diversions of water outside the Basin with limited exceptions, and were approved by the Governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec.
- Annex 2001 stipulates that within five years of the effective date of the Compact (enabling legislation passed in all Great Lakes States and ratified by Congress), each state will create a program for the management and regulation of new or increased large withdrawals to ensure an effective and efficient water management program. The Water Use Reporting Program is Michigan's solution to meeting the Compact.



Key Stakeholders

- Agricultural large quantity water use operations
- State governors and premiers of Canadian provinces in the great lakes basin
- Great Lakes Commission
- International Joint Commission

Key Deliverables

- Processed water use information from agricultural operations with large capacity water withdrawals.
- Yearly report was submitted to MDEQ for integration with non-agricultural water use information that is submitted to the Great Lakes Commission.
- Promoted sound management of water resources within Great Lakes Basin.

2015 Accomplishments

- Managed reporting for approximately 1,778 user accounts, representing 3,440 farms reporting water use for more than 9,400 large capacity pumps.
- Worked with the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget to complete an MDARD interface to water withdrawal data submitted by landowners that allows better customer service and improved data reliability.
- Reduced redundancy of records for streamlined tracking.

Measuring Success:

Metric	2012	2013	2014
Users submitting water use on-line	1,478	1,416	1452
Pumps reported	7,469	7,579	7,996
Withdrawal from groundwater (%)	74	76	77
Withdrawal from surface water (%)	26	24	23
Irrigated acres reported	592,243	533,160	553,889
Water withdrawal (billion gallons)	175	109	98
Water withdrawal (acre feet)	457,300	333,183	302,120

Dashboards and Scorecards:

- The Water Use Reporting program did not have an item on the departmental scorecard for 2015. Staff is working with MDARD's Director of Strategy and Business Performance to design measures toward this end.

2016 Program Goals:

- Improve the Water Use Reporting Program's online reporting database to increase efficiency in tracking transfers of ownership and/or leasing of large quantity withdrawals, reduce duplication potential of records, and strengthen the capability of reporting results at the state level.
- On-going work with MDEQ to identify producers with new and old large quantity water withdrawals who are not yet submitting required water use reports to the State of Michigan, and assist to bring those users into compliance.