

Major Water Users

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Water Resources Center
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Major Water Users Registration

Regulated Activities: In 1983, the Missouri General Assembly passed a law requiring all major water users to register their water use annually. A major water user is defined as any person, firm, corporation, agency of the State of Missouri or any political subdivision with a water source and necessary equipment to withdraw or divert 100,000 gallons or more per day from any stream, river, lake, well, spring or other water source. This means anyone with equipment capable of pumping or diverting water at 70 gallons per minute or more may be considered to be a major water user. However the law does not apply to dredging operations or water withdrawn from ponds that collect and hold surface water and are located upon property owned or leased by the withdrawer “so long as the common law rights of the downstream owners are not abridged”.

Fees: None

Required Documents: A completed Water-Use Inventory form, a Source of Water form and a map showing the location of the water source by section, township and range. Forms or online submittal are available at dnr.mo.gov/env/wrc/waterusestatutes.htm.

Length of Permit: For the life of the water source. This is a registration; no permit is issued. Water use must be submitted annually before March 31.

Average Processing Time: Two weeks.

Public Participation: None

Applicable Statutes: RSMo 256.400 through 256.430