



State Engineer's Office

HERSCHLER BUILDING, 4-E CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002
(307) 777-7354 FAX (307) 777-5451

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR

PATRICK TYRRELL
STATE ENGINEER

May 29, 2015

Via Certified U.S. Mail

«Company_Name»
«First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Address_1»
«Address_2»

Re: Permit, Statement of Claim, or Well Registration No. U.W. «Permit_No»
Required Adjudication, Meter Installation, and Water Production Reporting

Dear Ground Water Appropriator:

Responding to concerns over increasing development and use of groundwater resources in the Laramie County Control Area (LCCA), I issued an Order on April 1, 2015 that will guide groundwater development in that area for at least the next five years, and directly affects you as a user of groundwater. I encourage you to read the Order in its entirety. The Order is available on the State Engineer's Office (SEO) website at <https://sites.google.com/a/wyo.gov/seo/>.

Adjudication

According to the records of the SEO, any groundwater rights listed above have not been adjudicated. The Order requires the adjudication of all unadjudicated, non time-limited irrigation, municipal, industrial, and miscellaneous use underground water appropriations, developed in the High Plains Aquifer within the Laramie County Control Area, by **November 30, 2017**. *Wells that are not adjudicated by this date will be tagged, locked, and foreclosed from use until adjudication is complete.*

The adjudication or "finalization" of a groundwater right is the final step in the perfection of the right. The purpose of the adjudication is to establish and fix the amount of the appropriation, the use(s) to which the water can be applied, and also the points and/or areas of use. To help you understand what is involved in the adjudication process, I have attached a summary of the adjudication procedure for your use.

Please note, the professional land surveyor and/or professional engineer required to prepare the map required by Part II of Form U.W. 8 (Proof of Appropriation and Beneficial Use of Ground Water) are difficult to schedule on short notice. A list of licensed professionals who can prepare the required map can be found on the Wyoming Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors website at <http://engineersandsurveyors.wyo.gov/>. To ensure adjudication of your water right(s) by the ordered deadline, the Beneficial Use Map will need to be submitted to the SEO - Ground Water Division (GW) no later than **January 1, 2017**. Additionally, field inspections by the GW staff are normally conducted from May through September. Post inspection activities require a considerable amount of time to complete and the Board of Control meets only four times a year. All of these items should be considered as you progress towards the adjudication of your groundwater right.

Surface Water
(307) 777-6475

Ground Water
(307) 777-6163

Board of Control
(307) 777-6178

Meter Installation

Prior to use in water year 2017 (which begins on October 1, 2017), all irrigation, municipal, industrial, and miscellaneous use wells completed in the High Plains Aquifer shall be fitted with functional and accurate flow meters properly sized for the flow rate of the well pump and approved by the Water Division I Superintendent, Brian Pugsley. Superintendent Pugsley can be contacted at (307) 532-2248.

Guidance relative to “what is an acceptable meter” is attached for your use. You must contact Superintendent Pugsley and arrange for a field inspection to verify an approved and properly functioning flow meter is installed prior to use in water year 2017, which for year-round users will be before September 30, 2016. *Wells without an approved and properly functioning flow meter shall not be pumped after September 30, 2016.* Once installed, meters must be kept in proper working order and maintained to the Superintendent’s satisfaction.

Report Water Production

Beginning with use in water year 2017, and no later than **November 15th of each year**, appropriators must deliver monthly and annual reports on total groundwater production for the immediately prior water year, for each well so metered. For example, total monthly and annual well production for any such well used during water year 2017 (October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017) shall be delivered to GW by **November 15, 2017**. Water production must be submitted on the form provided by the SEO which is available either on the SEO’s website or by calling GW at (307) 777-6163.

Not Using Your Water Right?

If your water right is not being exercised, I highly recommend you request cancellation of the water right. Forms for this purpose are available by request or at <https://sites.google.com/a/wyo.gov/seo/seo-files/Cancrequest.pdf>. While you may apply for a new permit in the future, be aware that the current LCCA Order dictates spacing requirements between new diversions (including enlargements) and other conditions of permit approval which could complicate or prohibit obtaining a permit for certain types of water use within specific management areas of the LCCA.

If you have any questions regarding these impending deadlines, or your requirements under the LCCA Order, please call GW at (307) 777-6163, or the Torrington Field Office at (307) 532-2248.

Sincerely,



Patrick T. Tyrrell, State Engineer

Cc: Lisa Lindemann, Administrator, Ground Water Division
Brian Pugsley, Superintendent, Water Division 1
Adam Skadsen, Hydrographer-Commissioner, Water Division 1

Attachments:

Adjudication Procedure (Part II Rules and Regulations, Chapter 2 (in part))
Flow Meter Guidance