

Subject Water-Use Permits

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## Overview

As amended, this bill makes a number of changes to provisions affecting the issuance of water-use permits by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

## Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p><b>Preapplication evaluation of certain water appropriation projects.</b></p> <p>Makes an existing provision allowing the DNR to request preapplication information for a proposed data center project with a consumptive water use exceeding 100,000,000 gallons per year mandatory.</p>   |
| 2 | <p><b>Mt. Simon-Hinckley aquifer.</b></p> <p>Allows the DNR to issue a water-use permit appropriating groundwater from the Mt. Simon-Hinckley aquifer when there is no feasible or practical alternative for the irrigation of growing crops in counties north of the seven-county metropolitan area. Requires the permits to be consistent with existing permitting requirements and have a water conservation plan that incorporates the best available water conservation technology and practices. The permits would also be subject to additional monitoring and testing requirements and could not exceed 50,000,000 gallons per year. Modifies an existing provision that allows the DNR to issue water-use permits from the Mt. Simon-Hinckley aquifer when there is no feasible or practical alternative so that it can be done for a priority one use (domestic use excluding industrial or commercial uses) instead of for “potable” water use.</p> |
| 3 | <p><b>Large water appropriation projects; permit conditions.</b></p> <p>Makes requirements of the DNR when issuing water-use permits that currently apply to data centers applicable to all industrial or consumptive uses exceeding 100,000,000 gallons per year. Also applies those requirements when an industrial or commercial use is more than 50 percent of a municipality’s authorized water use. Requires the DNR to consult with municipalities when there is such a use to determine whether it will require municipal infrastructure upgrades and prohibits</p>  |

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	the DNR from issuing the permit until the user has agreed to pay the costs or the municipality has submitted evidence that they decline to have the user pay.
4	<b>Report.</b> Requires municipal water-use permit holders that meet the new thresholds established in the previous section to report their water use each month instead of annually which is required for water-use permit holders generally. Requires all permit holders to report their water use based on the priority uses.
5	<b>Public notice requirements.</b> Requires the DNR to maintain an electronic mailing list for those who sign up to be notified of certain water-use permit applications and to notify those who have signed up.
6	<b>Groundwater; environmental review.</b> Requires the results of aquifer tests required by the DNR that are for a water-use permit identified in an environmental assessment worksheet or environmental impact statement to be included and considered as part of the environmental review process.



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