

Division of Water Supply

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Programs

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (Water Diversion Permitting)

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The Water Resources Management section of the Bureau of Water Allocation operates under the New Jersey Water Supply Management Act (Pdf Format).

The section regulates all ground and surface water diversions in New Jersey that are in excess of 100,000 gallons of water per day. This includes water diverted for public water supply, industrial processing and cooling, irrigation, sand and gravel operations, remediation, and power generation. The regulation could take the form of a permit, certification, registration, or permit-by-rule.

Implementing regulations are:

- ▶ [N.J.A.C. 7:19-1 et seq](#): Water Supply Allocation Rules.(Pdf Format)
- ▶ [N.J.A.C. 7:20A-1 et seq](#): Agricultural, Aquacultural or Horticultural Water Usage Certification Rules (Pdf Format)

The Water Resources Management Section also:

- Designs, implements and manages Water Supply Critical Areas
- Maintains databases of:
 - o Monthly water use of all regulated diversions
 - o Diversion sources, including their capacities, locations, water source, use of supply, and identification numbers
 - o Water quality data (raw water chloride and sodium content)
- Carries out certain water supply planning activities
- Assesses permit compliance and initiates enforcement actions
- Educates and informs the public and regulated community
- Compiles reports on the status of the major reservoir levels
- Calculates excess diversion fees
- Generates billings for permit application fees and annual fees
- Issues Water Allocation Permits and Temporary Dewatering Allocation Permits
- Issues Short Term Permit-by-Rule
- Issues Water Use Registrations
- Issues Agricultural, Aquacultural and Horticultural Water Use Certifications

A **Water Allocation Permit** is required for the withdrawal of ground and/or surface water in excess of 100,000 gallons of water per day for a period of more than 30 days in a consecutive 365 day period, for purposes other than agriculture, aquaculture or horticulture.

For dewatering in excess of 100,000 gallons of water per day, the project owner must obtain a Temporary Dewatering Allocation Permit, or Dewatering Permit-by-Rule or Short Term Permit-by-Rule depending on the duration of construction and the method employed.

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A **Short Term Permit-by-Rule** must be obtained for diversions in excess of 100,000 gallons of water per day that occur over a period of 30 days or less in a calendar year.

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A **Water Use Registration** is required for any person with the capability to divert in excess of 100,000 gallons of water per day, but who withdraws less than this quantity.

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An **Agricultural Water Usage Certification** or **Agricultural Water Use Registration** must be obtained from the County agricultural agent if a person has the capability to withdraw ground and/or surface water in excess of 100,000 gallons per day for agricultural, aquacultural or horticultural purposes.

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Water Supply Critical Areas: The State of New Jersey has designated two areas of water supply concern. These are areas where excessive water usage poses significant threat to the long-term integrity of a water supply source.

Critical Area No. 1 was declared in 1985 and includes portions of Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean Counties. There are four affected aquifers in this critical area : the Englishtown, the Upper and Lower Potomac-Raritan-Magothy, and the Wenonah -Mt Laurel. Water allocations were reduced 40-50 percent within this critical area.

Critical Area No. 2 was declared in 1994 and includes portions of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Atlantic, Cumberland, Salem, Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Water allocations from the Potomac-Raritan-Magothy aquifer system were reduced an average of 22 percent within this region.


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Water Supply Planning: The Water Resources Management Section works with the United States and New Jersey Geological Surveys, the Delaware River Basin Commission, the New Jersey Water Supply Authority and the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Watershed Management to conduct water supply feasibility studies and water resource evaluations. Such studies are used to evaluate long term water supply planning needs and to provide viable alternatives through the Statewide Water Supply Plan.

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