

Kansas Administrative Regulations

Kansas Department of Agriculture—Division of Water Resources

Article 8.—Certification of Water Rights

5-8-6. Perfection of a water right.

(a) Except for municipal use, a reasonable period of time to perfect a water right shall be no fewer than four full calendar years following the deadline for construction of the diversion works. If the time to construct the diversion works is extended, the perfection period shall be extended to no fewer than four full calendar years beyond the final deadline to construct the diversion works, unless the owner of the approval of application objects.

(b) A reasonable time to perfect a water right for municipal use shall be no fewer than 20 full calendar years plus the remainder of the calendar year in which the application was approved. Each holder of a permit for municipal use of water shall submit a progress report to the chief engineer 10 full calendar years after the permit was issued. The report shall be submitted on a form prescribed by the chief engineer. The report shall meet the following conditions:

(1) Compare the annual water use projected in the original application with the actual annual water use for the prior 10 years; and

(2) document compliance with an approved conservation plan, if one had been required. If the 10-year review by the chief engineer shows that actual annual water use is significantly less than originally projected, the holder shall revise the estimated annual water use for the next 10 years. If it is in the public interest, the total authorized annual quantity of water for the next 10 years shall be reduced by the chief engineer to a reasonable annual quantity based on the municipal user's revised estimates of annual water use for the next 10 years. If the 10-year review indicates that a required conservation plan was not being complied with or that the conservation plan does not meet the Kansas water office's conservation guidelines for municipal users, as in effect

at the time of the review, an order requiring any of the following shall be issued by the chief engineer:

- (A) That the conservation plan be amended to comply with current guidelines;
- (B) that the user comply with the provisions of the approved conservation plan; or
- (C) both of the requirements in paragraphs (b) (2) (A) and (B).

(c) If the applicant demonstrates to the chief engineer that a longer perfection period is necessary to justify purchase or construction of infrastructure related to the diversion, treatment, or distribution of water that actually is being built, the original time to perfect a water right for municipal use or other public entity, including a utility, may be extended for a period not to exceed a total time to perfect of 40 years.

(d) For good cause shown by the applicant, a reasonable extension of time to perfect a water right shall be allowed by the chief engineer if the request for extension is filed pursuant to the terms of K.A.R. 5-3-7 and is accompanied by the statutorily required filing fee.

(e) If water use reports and other information on file in the office of the chief engineer indicate that no water was applied to the authorized beneficial use during the time allowed to perfect the water right, including any authorized extensions of time, the owner of the approval of application as shown in the records of the chief engineer shall be sent a notice by the chief engineer, giving the owner 30 days to show that water was put to beneficial use within the terms, conditions, and limitations of the permit during the perfection period. If the owner fails to demonstrate that water was so used, the permit shall be dismissed and its priority forfeited.

(Authorized by K.S.A. 82a-706a; implementing K.S.A. 82a-707(e), K.S.A. 82a-712, K.S.A. 82a-713, and K.S.A. 1999 Supp. 82a-714; effective Sept. 22, 2000.)

***** Authenticated Kansas Administrative Regulation *****