

KWO IRRIGATION AND MUNICIPAL WATER USE PROGRAMS

Fact Sheet No. 17

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Kansas Water Office

Background

The State Water Resources Planning Act (K.S.A. 82a-901a) declares that “the state can best achieve the proper utilization and control of the water resources of the state through comprehensive planning which coordinates and provides guidance for the management, conservation and development of the state’s water resources.”

The Kansas Water Office (KWO) is the water planning agency for the state, and is mandated under K.S.A. 82a-902 to “formulate on a continuing bases a state water plan for the management, conservation and development of the water resources of the state.” Some of the goals of the Water Planning Act are the prevention of the waste of water supplies of the state and the protection of the public interest through the conservation of the water resources of the state in a technologically and economically feasible manner (K.S.A. 82a-927).

The Kansas Water Office is directed by statute to collect and compile information pertaining to the climate, water and soil, as related to the usage of water for agriculture, industrial and municipal purposes and the availability of water supplies in several watersheds of the state (K.S.A. 74-2608). Such research is undertaken in order to implement some aspect of the Kansas Water Plan.

KWO Irrigation Water Use Program

The *Kansas Water Office Irrigation Water Use Program* is conducted in cooperation with the Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA-DWR). Through this program, staff: a) utilize a computer edit program to locate potential errors in the annual Irrigation Water User Report data that is reported to the Division of Water Resources; b) corrects errors when possible from existing records, writes follow-up letters, uses State Water Plan funds to conduct farm-site visits and contracts with groundwater

management districts; and c) summarizes the annual irrigation water use data by township, county, groundwater management district and region to assist state and local agencies in making policy decisions.

KWO Municipal Water Use Program

The *Kansas Water Office Municipal Water Use Program* is conducted in cooperation with the KDA-DWR and US Geological Survey. Through this program, staff analyze data provided on annual water use reports to determine per capita use and percent unaccounted for water. Information from the water use reports is used to direct technical assistance to water suppliers, guide conservation plan development, and develop projections of population and associated water demands. The KWO provides State Water Plan funds for on-site technical assistance through the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) for all water suppliers, with a special program emphasis on systems with 30 percent or more unaccounted for water. The KRWA assistance includes leak detection, meter testing, and bookkeeping reviews.

Summaries of municipal water use data and regional averages are published annually. Currently the KWO Municipal Water Use Program is expanding its coverage to include annual water use reports from suppliers not previously required to complete them as a condition of their KDA-DWR water right or KWO marketing contract.

Additional Information

Further information on this subject or on many other *Kansas Water Plan* related programs can be obtained from: Kansas Water Office, 901 S. Kansas Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612-1249, phone (785-296-3185), toll free (888-KAN-WATER) or check our WEB site at www.kwo.org.