

WATER RIGHTS 101

FAST FACTS ABOUT WATER RIGHTS, FILINGS & APPLICATIONS



HOW FILES ARE NUMBERED

All filings are assigned a specific number, called a water right number.

This number consists of a two-digit prefix followed by a unique number identifier.

For example, a filing near St. George would be assigned an 81 prefix followed by the next number in the sequence such as 81-1250.

PRE-FILING CONSULTATION

Before filing applications, we recommend prospective applicants meet with the Division of Water Rights for a brief consultation.

DETAILS INCLUDED IN WATER RIGHTS FILES



Quantity of water

Measured as either cubic-feet-per-second or acre-feet

Point of diversion

Could be a well, surface, spring or drain

Place of use

Defined by the public land survey system

Nature of use

Including irrigation, stock watering domestic, municipal, industrial, mining, etc.

Priority date

The date by which the right is administered

Filing date

The date when the application is filed

Status

A water right can be either perfected or unperfected. Perfected rights are certificated, diligence claims or decrees. Unperfected rights will be pending an approval or approved.

APPLICATION
FILED

ADVERTISED
for

2

consecutive weeks

PROTEST
PERIOD

20 days

Reviewed
by the State
Engineer



APPROVED
OR
REJECTED

If approved,
put water to
beneficial use

FILE PROOF
of beneficial use



UPDATING ADDRESS AND TITLE ON WATER RIGHTS

The Division of Water Rights is **not** the official office of record for title. To update title on a water right, you must record the deed with the county recorder's office where your water right is located.
(Scan the QR Code to the right to quickly link to title resources.)



Which application should I file?

There are many different types of applications. The following is a guide to help you determine which type of application you should file:

Application to appropriate

Used in areas open to new appropriations. These applications can be permanent, fixed-time or temporary.

Change application

With a right in hand, you may file a change application to change any of the characteristics of the right. These applications can be permanent, fixed time or temporary.

Exchange application

Based on a contract with an entity holding a right and another party. The exchange application is filed to make the contract a matter of public record.

Request for extension of time

Filed when an application is about to expire but you are not ready to file proof of beneficial use.

Proof of beneficial use

Filed when you have constructed all works and are beneficially using the water.



All forms are available at www.waterrights.utah.gov.
For information about other potential filings, contact the division.

FILING FEES

Application fees are based on quantity of water. Scan the QR Code below for the full fee schedule:



CONTACT US

Utah Division of Water Rights
Office of the State Engineer

1594 W. North Temple St., Ste. 220
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

801-538-7240
waterrights@utah.gov