



DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

South Platte River Basin Well Measurement Rules Fact Sheet

TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE SOUTH PLATTE MEASUREMENT RULES, VISIT www.water.state.co.us

- **Wells included in the rules:**

- All wells within the South Platte Basin except wells permitted as “exempt”, non-tributary wells, designated basin wells, Denver Basin wells, “gravel pits” unless required by SWSP or decreed augmentation plan, wells decreed to withdraw less than 50 gpm that are included in an augmentation plan, wells in augmentation plans where the augmentation decree allows for an alternate method for determining impacts of pumping (i.e. consumptive use). Refer to paragraphs 1.1.1 – 1.1.7 of the measurement rules.
- Approximately 6,000 wells within the South Platte Basin are subject to the measurement rules
- Well Owners / Users are responsible to make certain their Well is in compliance with the Rules. You will not be receiving notification that your well is within the Scope of the Rules. If you are uncertain if your well is within the Scope of the Rules, please contact the Division of Water Resources at 970-352-8712.

- **Meter Requirements**

- All wells subject to the rules shall be equipped with a Totalizing Flow Meter (TFM), equipped with a verified alternative method of measurement (i.e. PCC), or filed as Inactive. See Rule 3.
 - An Inactive well is defined as a well that does not divert water for any purpose, is operationally disabled, and has submitted a notarized affidavit on the form prescribed to the Division Engineer indicating such. Operationally disabled means a well with its power supply physically disconnected by the service provider or its pump or motor removed- there must be no means readily available to make diversions from the well. See paragraphs 2.1.10 and 2.1.13.
- TFMs must be verified as accurate every 4 years (unless a decreed plan of augmentation indicates a different schedule). See paragraph 3.1.5.
- TFM must be re-verified if: (1) there are any damages, repairs, or alterations to the TFM, the installation configuration, or the well infrastructure; (2) any other modifications, repairs, or alterations that may affect TFM accuracy; or (3) DWR determines an error was made. See paragraph 3.1.5.
- Beginning December 1, 2016, meter readings shall be provided to the Division Engineer once a year, no later than December 1, for the previous water year’s monthly total diversions (November 1 to October 31). See Rule 6.
- TFM totalizer must have nonvolatile memory (non-resettable), record in units of acre-feet or gallons, record a minimum of one-year of diversions without rollover to zero, be tamper resistant and inscribed with a unique ID (serial number), and be maintained to provide a continuous and accurate record of diversions. See paragraph 3.1.2.
- TFMs are required upstream of any point of discharge. See paragraph 3.1.4.1.
- TFMs installed after the effective date of the Rules (December 31, 2013) must be installed in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications and recommendations or they will not be allowed. See paragraph 3.1.4.3.

Water Division 1 • Greeley

810 9th Street, Suite 200 • Greeley, CO 80631 • Phone: 970-352-8712 • Fax: 970-392-1816
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- **Meter verification** (see paragraph 3.1.3)
 - TFM = Accurate operation: within 5% accurate of an independent field measurement made by a Qualified Well Tester. No Correction Factor is applied. This test is good for 4 years.
 - TFM = Acceptable operation: 5%-8% accurate of an independent field measurement made by a Qualified Well Tester, and a Correction Factor must be applied to the meter's readings. This test and correction factor are good for 4 years.
 - TFM = Provisionally Acceptable operation: 8%-10% accurate of an independent field measurement made by a Qualified Well Tester, and a Correction Factor must be applied to the meter's readings. This test and correction factor are good for 1 year. After 1 year, a new test must be submitted indicating that the flow meter is in Accurate or Acceptable operating condition.
 - TFM = Not Acceptable: greater than 10% accurate of an independent field measurement made by a Qualified Well Tester. Well is not in compliance with the Rules.
- **Due Dates**
 - December 31, 2011 – December 31, 2013 – Existing verified flow meter documentation may be submitted to the Division Engineer showing a flow meter has been verified as accurate in accordance to an existing decree. This documentation allows for a meter to be in compliance for 4 years after the date of the flow meter's last verification. See paragraph 4.1.
 - December 31, 2013 – Rules are effective (after this date, meter certifications must follow the measurement Rules unless an existing decree specifies differently).
 - December 31, 2015 – Wells and meters must be in compliance with the Rules or filed as Inactive. See paragraph 1.6. Is also the date of first expiration of existing flow meters verified as accurate in December of 2011. See paragraph 4.1.
 - December 1, 2016 – First monthly meter readings submitted annually due. See Rule 6.
 - December 31, 2017 – Latest expiration of existing verified flow meters verified on December 31, 2013. See paragraph 4.1.
- **Existing meter installations**
 - Totalizing flow meters installed prior to December 31, 2013 in existing plumbing configurations that are not installed in strict compliance with the meter manufacture's specifications/recommendations are NOT in violation of the measurement rules. See paragraph 3.1.4.3. However, the TFM MUST be verified as accurate (± 5 -10%) of an independent field test and meter or a variance obtained.
 - Well(s) that are part of a decreed plan of augmentation that have not been used and have not been operationally disabled may be granted a variance where the plan adequately documents such non-use. This will typically be in the event that a well has not diverted and does not plan to divert, and such non-diversion is documented. The well may be granted a variance so that it is not required to divert exclusively for a meter verification test. See paragraph 3.1.5.5.

DIVISION 1 SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN WELL MEASUREMENT CONTACTS:

David Nettles, Corey Deangelis, Justin Bieri, Stephanie Hamburg, Kyle Bobst

**LIST OF QUALIFIED WELL TESTERS: AT [WWW.STATE.CO.US](http://www.state.co.us) OR
<http://water.state.co.us/DWRIPub/Documents/welltesters.pdf>**

Well Measurement Guidelines and Policies will be available after December 31, 2013 at: www.state.co.us

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