



Groundwater Appropriation Permits – the process

Tom Hovey

Water Regulation Unit

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DNR must consider sustainability of groundwater resources

Including:

- Current and future projected water levels
- Water quality
- Ecosystems
- Future generations

M.S. 103G.287



Consistent decision process for water use applications

- Process 1: Preliminary Well Construction Assessment
- Process 2: Application for a Water Appropriation Permit



**Standard
Evaluation
Criteria**

MPARS

Conservation

**Permit
Decision
Making**

**Interagency
Cooperation

**Compliance
and
Enforcement**

**Monitoring
SW & GW**

*** DNR, MDH, MPCA,
MDA, Met Council, WSD**



MN Water Law Basics

- Public Trust Doctrine
- Riparian Rights (and duties)
- Statutes and Rules
- Permit System



Permit Process

- Landowner Applies for Permit
- DNR Staff Review and Analyze Information
 - Sufficient information for decision?
 - Requirements of rules and statutes met?
 - Reasonable?
 - Negative impacts to resource?
 - Alternatives?
- Decision

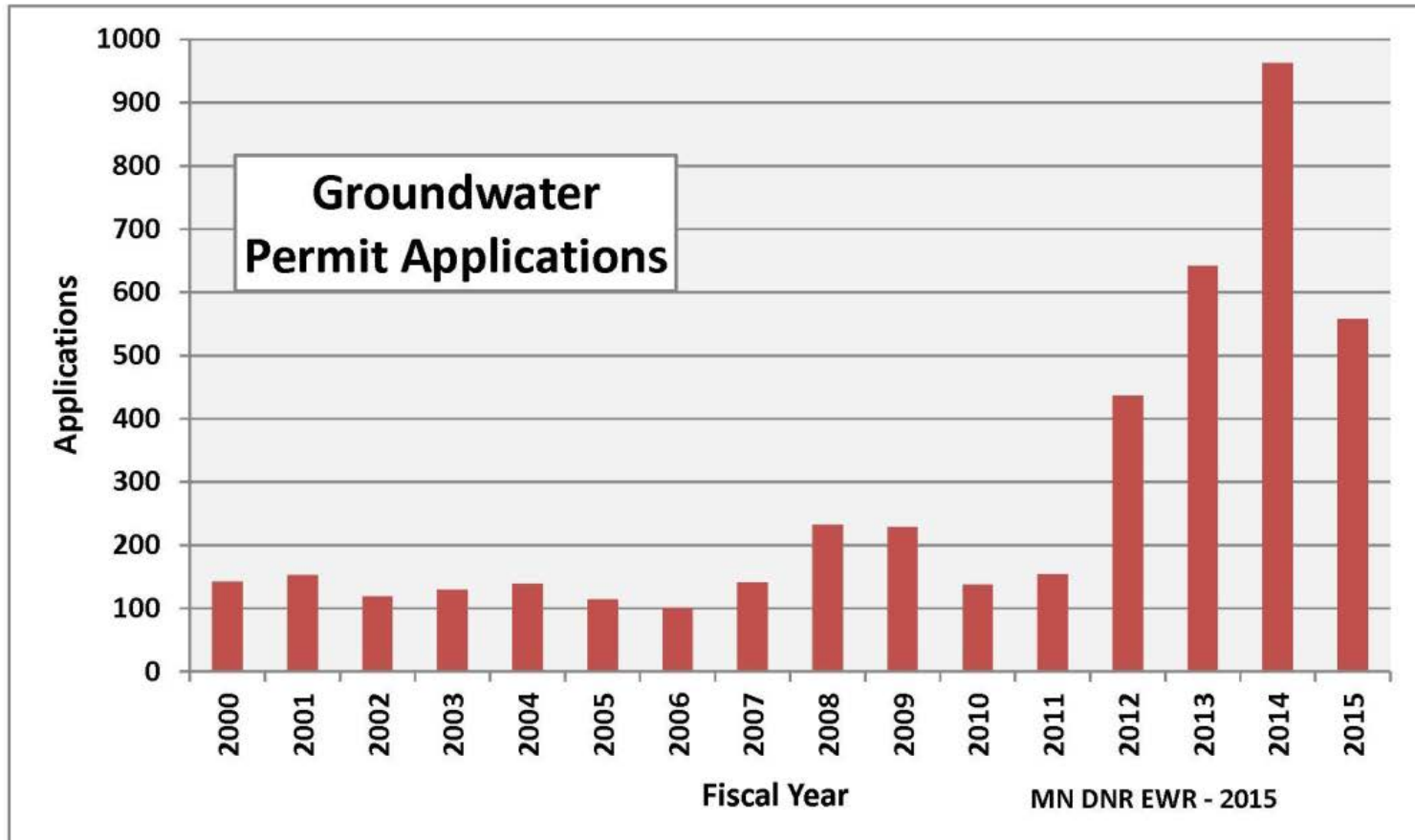


Permit Process Timeline

- Landowner applies for permit
- Application sent out for 30 day agency review
- DNR staff review and analyze information
- More information needed for sound decision?
- Decision



Groundwater Permit Applications





A consistent decision process with a consistent set of questions

Key questions to ensure sustainable use:

- Can the use be permitted? (Applicant has riparian rights? Complete application?)

- Is the requested amount reasonable?

* ask for individual and cumulative perspective



A consistent decision process with a consistent set of questions

Key questions (continued):

- What is the likely significant reach of influence?

- Will the proposed use negatively impact other existing wells?

* ask for individual and cumulative perspective



A consistent decision process with a consistent set of questions

Key questions (continued):

- Will the proposed use have negative impacts on other water uses?

- Will the proposed use have negative impacts on aquifers?

* ask for individual and cumulative perspective



A consistent decision process with a consistent set of questions

Key questions (continued):

- Will the proposed use have negative impacts on groundwater quality?
- Will the proposed use have negative impacts on calcareous fens?

* ask for individual and cumulative perspective



A consistent decision process with a consistent set of questions

Key questions (continued):

- Will the proposed use have negative impacts on trout streams?

- Will the proposed use have negative impacts on streams?

* ask for individual and cumulative perspective



A consistent decision process with a consistent set of questions

Key questions (continued):

- Will the proposed use have negative impacts on lakes or wetlands?

* ask for individual and cumulative perspective