

Registration for Ground Water Reuse Exemption

Background:

The 1997 Legislature passed a law allowing some reuse/land application of industrial process water without the need of a water right issued by the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD). A simple registration of this reuse is all that is required. If this reused water replaces other another water source for irrigation, the reuse registration also protects the original irrigation water right from forfeiture.

To qualify:

The source of the reused water from the industrial use or confined animal feed operation (CAFO) must have been groundwater (a well or other groundwater development) covered by a groundwater right established under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 537.615, a groundwater registration filed under ORS 537.605 or an exempt groundwater use allowed under ORS 537.545.

When groundwater is reused in accordance with a permit issued by the DEQ under ORS 468B.050 (NPDES permit) or 468B.215 (WPCF permit) or a CAFO as authorized by the Department of Agriculture, a water right is not required for the reuse of that water but *registration of the reuse is required.*

Registered lands can also be exempt from the FIVE -year, non-use forfeiture:

An advantage of the program is that when registered reused groundwater is land applied in place of water from an existing right, that right is exempt from the FIVE -year, non-use forfeiture outlined in ORS 540.610.

To take advantage of this exemption:

1. Complete the attached form;
2. Provide a map with accurate legal description(s) of all reuse/land application areas; and,
3. Send to:

Reuse Registration Coordinator
725 Summer Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

If you have questions please contact Bill Fujii (503) 986-0887 or Your Water Master.

Thank you