

Metadata – Water Rights Database
(last updated: April 10, 2006)

Description of Data Set: Water Rights Active file is a basic data set of surface water rights permit information for active permits and represents the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) current record of water rights permits. (Permits is used in a generic sense meaning any authorization under the jurisdiction of the TCEQ or predecessor agency and includes Certificates of Adjudication, Permits, Claims, Certified Filings, etc.) This file does not contain all the information or authorizations contained within a permit, just general authorizations such as permit number, name of owner, amount, type use authorized (for detailed field information see the associated dictionary file). As an example, many permits contain special conditions or restrictions that have not been captured in any database. Complete information about a particular permit may be obtained in hard copy by request from the TCEQ's Central Records Department at (512) 239-0900. Research for large numbers of permits via this method may require special arrangement with staff due to resource limitations.

Purpose: This data set was developed for use by Water Rights Permitting and Availability Section staff and outside users as reference for basic permit information such as a current owner or water rights in a particular county. Detailed information beyond this basic data may need to be researched in the file records.

Progress Status: The Water Rights Permitting and Availability Section is currently involved in scoping and analysis for redesign (normalization) of the database and the associated water use tables as well as the watermaster operations. In the redesign process the database will capture more permit information as well as have a structure to support displaying this information. This process is ongoing and will continue for the next several months.

Temporal Range: The database contains permit information from authorizations to use water that have come down to the TCEQ through predecessor agencies from the late 1800's. The basis for this determination is review of the permit file and its associated priority date which establishes its position relative to other water rights' authorizations to divert water in time.

Access and Use Constraints: There are no restrictions to the use of this data but be advised that the database is not static and will be updated periodically. **Please see the data accuracy section below before using this data.**

Lineage

Processing Sequence: This data is taken from existing permits. Part of the database is historic, having come to us from an old mainframe database initiated by the Texas Water Commission in the 1950s.

Description of Process: When a water use permit is granted by the TCEQ one or more rows of data are created for the water right in the database.

Attributes

Description/Definition Accuracy:

There is a QA/QC (Quality Assurance/Quality Control) process that has been in place for data entry since 1991. Data entered prior to this date has not been extensively QA/QC'd. Note that structural limitations in the current database have limited the way information is displayed. For example, permits that have more than one county authorization may have only one shown.

Source: Permit Records.

Units of Measurement: For geo referencing, latitude and longitude information is available. This is digitized information and is subject to digitization error. There are currently no resources to verify the locational information on the ground.

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