



DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES

JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 EAST CAPITOL
PIERRE SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182
<http://denr.sd.gov>

MAY 22 2019

633A-2

William C Slovek, General Partner
Mitchell-Slovek Ranch, LLLP
20901 Slovek Rd
Philip SD 57567

Dear Mr. Slovek:

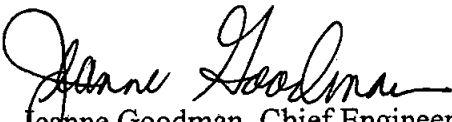
Enclosed is Reissued Water License No. 633A-2.

Based on the ownership change you filed, Water Right No. 633-2 has been divided and reissued to reflect separate ownership as follows:

- No. 633A-2, Mitchell-Slovek Ranch, LLLP, authorizing diversion of 1.55 cfs from the White River to irrigate 112 acres located in Lots 2 & 3 Section 31, T3S, R22E and Lots 1 & 2, Section 36, T3S, R21E
- No. 633B-2, Laurie J Whidby, authorizing diversion of 2.70 cfs from the White River to irrigate 195.7 acres located in Lots 1 through 7 and the W ½ SE ¼, S ½ SW ¼ Section 36, T44N, R36W

As long as you use the water beneficially, as stated in the Water License, State Water Laws provide that you have a continuing right to use the water.

Sincerely,


Jeanne Goodman, Chief Engineer
Water Rights Program
(605) 773-3352

enclosures

c: First American Title Company of SD w/Receipt No. 08669 for filing ownership change

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
REISSUED WATER LICENSE NO. 633A-2
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHT NO. 633-2 INTO 633A-2 AND 633B-2

(1) Whidby Brothers, Kadoka SD were originally issued Water License No. 633-2, August 8, 1967 for a water right to divert 4.25 cubic feet of water per second (cfs) from the White River to irrigate 307.7 acres located in portions of Section 31, T3S, R22E; Section 36, T3S, R21E and Section 36, T44N, R36W in Jackson County, South Dakota. Water Right No. 633-2 carried a priority date of September 6, 1960.

On May 7, 2018 and May 15, 2019, ownership changes were filed with the water right. Based on the ownership changes, Water Right No. 633-2 has been divided and reissued to reflect separate ownership as follows:

- **No. 633A-2, Mitchell-Slovek Ranch, LLLP, 20901 Slovek Rd, Philip SD 57567** authorizing diversion of 1.55 cfs from the White River to irrigate 112 acres located in Lots 2 & 3 Section 31, T3S, R22E and Lots 1 & 2, Section 36, T3S, R21E.
- **No. 633B-2, Laurie J Whidby, 1550 Seger Drive, Lot 88, Rapid City SD 57701** authorizing diversion of 2.70 cfs from the White River to irrigate 195.7 acres located in Lots 1 through 7 and the W ½ SE ¼, S ½ SW ¼ Section 36, T44N, R36W.

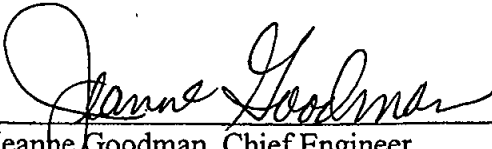
(2) It is certified that the water right holder has complied with the provisions of South Dakota State Law and is entitled to divert 1.55 cubic feet of water per second for beneficial use. The location of the diversion point (as specified on the original license) is between a point in the NW ¼ NW ¼ Section 36, T3S, R21E and a point in the NW ¼ NW ¼ Section 31, T3S, R22E.

The land authorized for irrigation is located as follows:

Section 31, T3S, R22E		Section 36, T3S, R21E	
Lot 2	2.4 acres	Lot 1	24.8 acres
Lot 3	13.2 acres	Lot 2	71.6 acres
Total 112 acres			

(3) Pursuant to South Dakota Water Law 46-5-30.1 Mitchell-Slovek Ranch, LLLP, 20901 Slovek Rd, Philip SD 57567 the holder and/or owner of Water Right No. 633A-2 is issued a license to appropriate water, the right to use 1.55 cubic feet of water per second from the White River with a priority date of September 6, 1960 from the locations specified in (2) of this license for irrigation purposes.

This license is subject to South Dakota Water Law and any limitations or conditions listed in Water Right No. 633-2.


Jeanne Goodman, Chief Engineer
Water Rights Program
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

MAY 22 2019
date



NOTICE OF TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

For assistance call (605) 773-3352

633A-2
RECEIVED

MAY 07 2018

WATER RIGHTS
PROGRAM

Mail to: PMB 2020
DENR - Water Rights Program
523 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501-3182

Water Right/Permit No. 633-2Date: 3-9-2018

I/We request that Water Right/Permit No. 633-2 formerly owned by:
Bart Stromberger, Stromberger Farms, Inc. be transferred to:

New Owner Name: Mitchell-Slovek Ranch, LLLPAddress: 20901 Slovek RoadCity, State, Zip Philip, SD 57567 ☒ Telephone No. 605-488-0257

Title to the following described land(s)/property has been transferred as described above:

Section 36, Lot 1 18 acres, Lot 2 52.8 acres; All in T3S, R21E, Jackson County, SD. Also listed on this Water Permit was the following wording: for irrigating 307.7 acres in portions of Section 31, T3S, R22E, Section 36, T3S, R21E (per Jackson County records, there are 176.75 acres currently owned by Stromberger Farms, Inc in Section 31, T3S, R22E and there are 70.8 acres currently owned by Stromberger Farms, Inc in Section 36, T3S, R21E).

☒ I understand that the validity of Water Right/Permit No. 633-2 has not been determined by this transfer action. If I have any questions on validity, I understand that only the Water Management Board has the authority to determine if a water right/permit is valid (see note below.)

You are requested to file this "Notice of Transfer" in the appropriate file with the Water Rights Program, as evidence of the change of ownership.

A fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is included to cover the filing fee as required by SDCL 46-2-13.

I, Mitchell-Slovek Ranch LLLP, the new owner, certify that the above information is true and correct.

William P. Slovek general partner
(signed by new owner)

NOTE: Water permits may be cancelled for nonconstruction after the five year construction period has expired. Once a water permit is developed and the water used, the permit becomes a right. A water right may be lost for three reasons:

1. Abandonment - no intent to use water and use is abandoned.
2. Forfeiture - no use of water for three year period without legal excuse.
3. For a third violation of a condition of a water permit/right.

RECEIPT

WATER RIGHTS PROGRAM

South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Date May 7, 2018

RECEIVED OF First American Title Company of SD POJBox 8181 Rapid City, SD 57709

The following amount in fees for services rendered as provided for by law:

Fee for Application for Permit No. _____ to Appropriate Water, to construct and to put water to beneficial use	50	00
Fee for Application for Permit No. _____ to Appropriate Water for Future use		
Fee to retain Future Use Permit No. _____ after period of seven years.		
Fee for Inspecting Constructed Works, confirming beneficial use and issuing Water License No. <u>633-2</u>		
Fee for Filing Transfer Form _____		
Fee for _____		
Fee for Issuing New Well Driller's License No. _____ for C.Y. _____		
Fee for Renewal of Well Driller's License No. _____ for C.Y. _____		
Fee for Issuing Well Pump Installer's License No. _____ for C.Y. _____	50	00
Fee for Renewal of Well Pump Installer's License No. _____ for C.Y. _____		
(Any Other Work Provided by Law)	TOTAL	

No. **08669**

By Jeanne Goodman
Chief Engineer *Jm*

McMath, Genny

From: Quentin L. Riggins <qriggins@gpna.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2018 5:02 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric; Jamie Fischer
Cc: McMath, Genny
Subject: RE: [EXT] Slovek Water Rights

After reviewing the documents and discussing things with my client we agree with the splitting of Water Right No. 633-2 in accordance with the numbers set forth in your email. After you have had a chance to determine the owner of the rest of the rights I would appreciate it if you would let me know who the owner is. I think my client might be interested in speaking with them about purchasing their property. Thanks Eric.

Quentin

From: Gronlund, Eric <Eric.Gronlund@state.sd.us>
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2018 10:39 AM
To: Quentin L. Riggins <qriggins@gpna.com>
Cc: McMath, Genny <Genny.McMath@state.sd.us>
Subject: Slovek Water Rights

Mr. Riggins:

DENR is not proceeding with formal transfer and potential splitting of Water Right No. 633-2 until we hear whether you concur with the ownership set forth in the previous email correspondence. Eric

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2018 2:36 PM
To: 'Steve Satterlee'; 'qriggins@gpna.com'
Cc: 'brian@premierrapidcity.com'; 'steve@premierrapidcity.com'
Subject: RE: [EXT] Slovek Water Rights

Correction , the third bullet should be "the area in green is authorized by WR No. 633-2....." See below. Eric

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2018 11:23 AM
To: 'Steve Satterlee'; 'qriggins@gpna.com'
Cc: 'brian@premierrapidcity.com'; 'steve@premierrapidcity.com'
Subject: RE: [EXT] Slovek Water Rights

Mr. Riggins and Mr. Satterlee:

Based on my discussions with Mr. Satterlee, I put together a map in hopes that it will help everyone visualize the land covered under the water rights and based on my understanding of current landownership. Disclaimer – this is not intended to be a precise map of irrigated acres. It is quite obvious since Water Right No. 633-2 was obtained in 1960 (see plat map from original application in previous email), that the White River's course has changed a little over time.

- The area in yellow is authorized by WR No. 305-2 for irrigation of 99.8 acres. This water right has already been transferred into the name of Mitchell Slovek Ranch LLP

- The area in red is authorized by WR No. 633-2. It entails a total of 112 acres. If this is correct, WR No. 633-2 will be split to reflect these 112 acres are now held by Mitchell Slovek LLP.
- The area in **green** is authorized by WR No. 633-2. It entails 195.7 acres. It is my understanding that this land is not owned by Mitchell Slovek Ranch LLP. Does anyone know who owns this acreage? If not, DENR will contact the register of deeds.

Mr. Riggins, as counsel for Mitchell Slovek Ranch LLP, please let me know if you concur with ownership as set forth in Mr. Satterlee's email and the general depiction on the attached map. If so, DENR will process to split the water right and transfer the 112 acre portion to Mitchell Slovek Ranch LLP.

Eric Gronlund
Water Rights Program, DENR
605 773-3352
Eric.gronlund@state.sd.us

From: Steve Satterlee [<mailto:steve@stevesatterlee.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2018 3:11 PM
To: griggins@gpna.com; Gronlund, Eric
Cc: brian@premierrapidcity.com; steve@premierrapidcity.com
Subject: [EXT] Slovek Water Rights

Hi Quentin and Eric,

I believe that Eric and I have figured out what is going on with Water Permit 633-2 (see attached copy of that Permit and the old Water License 6233-2.).

1. Eric and I figured out that the land located in Section 31, T3S, R22E actually pertains to two water permits: Permit # 633-2 (Lot 2 – 2.4 acres and Lot 3 – 13.2 acres (15.6 acres total) and Permit # 305-2 Pertains to Lot 1 – 1.6 acres, Lot 2 – 18.6 acres, Lot 3 - 10.3 acres, Lot 4 – 25.5 acres and Lot 6 – 43.8 acres (99.8 acres total).
2. I also attached maps. The only land that Slovek purchased that is south of the White River is in Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 (see acres with lot numbers above), Section 31, T3S, R22E and Lot 1 (24.8 acres) and Lot 2 (71.6 acres), Section 36, T3S, R21E. Lot 5 of 31-3-22 is north of the river.
3. On the Certification of Works Permit 633-2, there is a typo. The first legal description says Section 21, T3S, R22E. It should say: Section 31 not 21.
4. On the Certification of Completed Works # 633-2, I have put OK beside the land that should be on the Slovek Permit and NO beside the legal descriptions of other land on that permit that somebody else owns and that land should be split off of # 633-2.

Thanks and please let me know if I can help more.

Steve Satterlee, Broker
605-641-6882 Cell
Premier Properties Farm & Ranch, LLC
528 Kansas City St
Rapid City, SD 57701
605-718-4000 Office
605-716-5454 Fax



**DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 E. CAPITOL AVE
PIERRE SD 57501-3182
danr.sd.gov

January 20, 2023

NOTICE

TO: MITCHELL-SLOVEK RANCH LLLP, WILLIAM C SLOVEK, GENERAL PARTNER, 20901 SLOVEK RD, PHILIP, SD 57567

FROM: Ron Duvall, Water Rights Permitting Administrator
for Eric Gronlund, Chief Engineer
Water Rights Program

SUBJECT: Reporting Requirement for 2022 Irrigation Questionnaire(s)

Our records indicate your 2022 Irrigation Questionnaire has not been submitted for Permit No(s) 305-2, 339-2, 633A-2 as required by administrative rule 74:02:01:14.02. The request for the Questionnaire was dated October 21, 2022. The Water Management Board has directed owners of water permits who have not submitted the 2022 Irrigation Questionnaire be given notice of hearing to determine if any Board action is to be taken concerning this issue.

The hearing will be held at **Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 9:30 am (Central Time)** in the Floyd Matthew Training Center, Joe Foss Building, 523 E Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD and will be conducted pursuant to SDCL 46-1-12, 46-1-14, 46-2-9, 46-2-11 and 46-2-17. These are contested case hearings pursuant to Chapter 1-26. Following the hearing, the Water Management Board can:

1. Amend Permit No(s) 305-2, 339-2, 633A-2 to require the Irrigation Water Use Questionnaire to be submitted each year;
2. Postpone any action; or
3. Take no action.

The hearing is an adversary proceeding. The permit owner has the right to be present or to be represented by a lawyer. These and other due process rights will be forfeited if they are not exercised. Decisions of the Board may be appealed to the Circuit Court and the State Supreme Court as provided by law.

If the questionnaire(s) is (are) received in this office before the **March 8, 2023** hearing you will no longer be in violation of your permit and your name will be removed from the Board agenda. Enclosed are additional questionnaire(s) for your use. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Genny McMath at (605) 773-3352 or email at genny.mcmath@state.sd.us. **If you prefer, you can complete the questionnaire online at the following link: <https://danr.sd.gov/iq> using this password: SONNMX**

Note: Please contact the Water Rights Program, Joe Foss Building, 523 E Capitol, Pierre, SD (605-773-3352) to assure access to the meeting room for the handicapped or to obtain an interpreter for the hearing impaired.



**DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 E. CAPITOL AVE
PIERRE SD 57501-3182
danr.sd.gov

January 31, 2023

305-2
339-2
633A-2

William C Slovek
Mitchell-Slovak Ranch LLLP
20901 Slovek Rd
Philip SD 57567

Dear Sir:

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your 2022 irrigation questionnaires.

You may disregard the January 20, 2023, "Notice" concerning reporting requirements for Water Right Nos. 305-2, 339-2, 633A-2. The information was received in our office prior to the Water Management Board meeting and your name has been deleted from the agenda.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Genny McMath
Water Rights Program
605 773-3352
Genny.mcmath@state.sd.us



**DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 E. CAPITOL AVE
PIERRE SD 57501-3182
danr.sd.gov

Subject: Bypass Qualifications on the White River

March 30, 2023

Dear White River Water Right Holder,

The SD Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources Water Rights Program is reviewing qualifications on White River water rights in order to update when pumping is authorized. Water Rights issued with priority dates junior to 1975 contained a qualification requiring a mandatory June 1 shutoff to cease pumping water from the river. The mandatory June 1 shutoff qualification was placed on these permits to protect domestic water users, which includes livestock watering. The review found, with the passage of time the United States Geological Survey (USGS) streamflow monitoring has expanded and realtime access to this information has improved. An analysis of long-term historical flow found that the lower White River, downstream of the Little White River confluence, receives significant flow from the Little White River relative to the flow contribution from the upstream portion of the White River. Consequently, it may be possible to remove the mandatory June 1 shutoff qualification for the junior water right permits in this lower section of the river and replace the qualification with a flow bypass limitation as measured at the USGS streamflow gaging station located near Oacoma.

The intent of this effort is to allow for more efficient use of water when it is available by utilizing a bypass requirement as measured at a USGS stream flow gaging station for those water users. This qualification change will also allow many lower White River junior priority water right holders to irrigate after June 1 without the need to request an extension from the Chief Engineer. Current real time river flow information can be easily accessed on-line at the following internet address:

<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/sd/nwis/rt>

In order to amend a qualification on an existing water right permit, formal action by the SD Water Management Board is needed. In the near future, you can expect to receive official notification scheduling a hearing before the Water Management Board. The notification will include if your water right is proposed to have the qualification amended. This hearing will also be public noticed in select county newspapers in which the White River flows through. If you wish to participate in the hearing, you can, but you are not required to. There will be instructions with the notification on how to participate in the hearing if you so choose.

If you have any questions concerning this effort, please contact Mark Rath of the Water Rights Program at (605) 773-3352 or mark.rath@state.sd.us

Sincerely,

Eric Gronlund, Chief Engineer
SD DANR – Water Rights Program

Review of White River Water Rights and Report on Proposed Amendment

February 14, 2023

Introduction

An evaluation was made of the current qualifications that were placed on the existing White River water permits/rights to determine whether these qualifications are effectively managing the water source for the users.

Review of the Water Source

The White River, a prairie stream, located in southwestern South Dakota and northwestern Nebraska, Figure 1. The White River headwaters originate in northwestern Nebraska and drains approximately 9,975 square miles before discharging into the Missouri River near Oacoma SD.

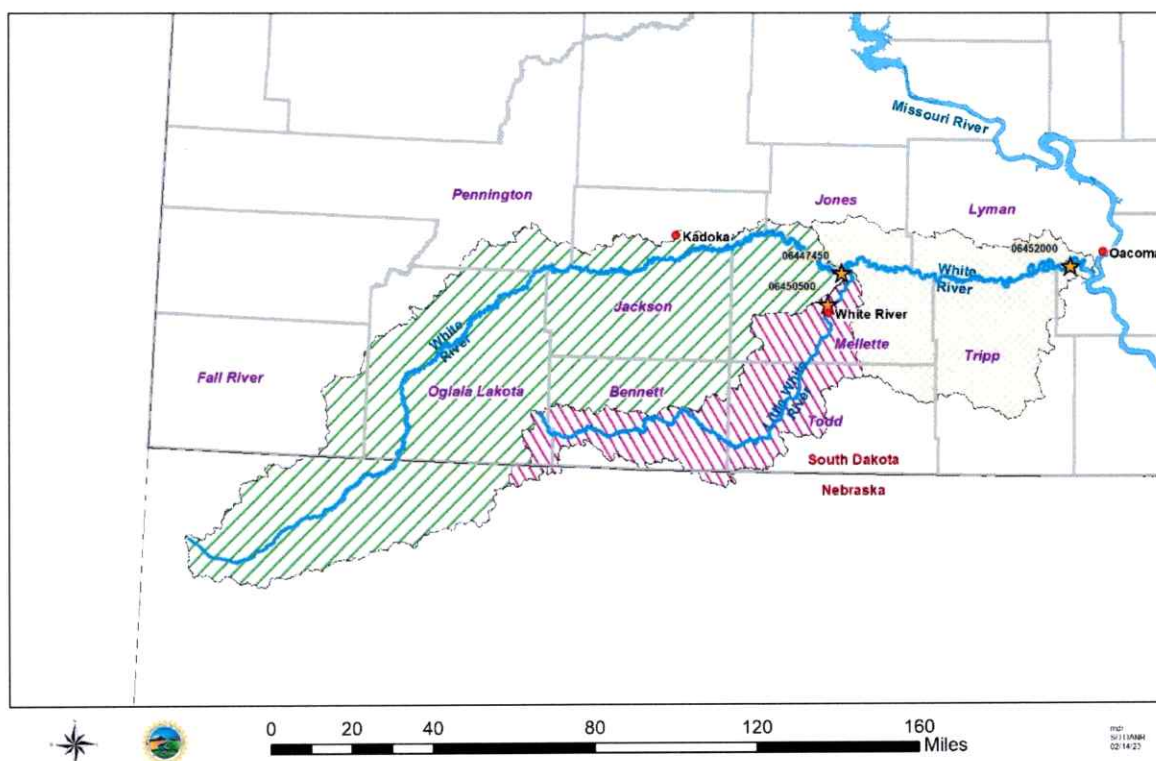


Figure 1. White River Watershed Map.

The entire watershed can be broken into three sections: upper White River, lower White River and Little White River. The upper White River watershed is the portion drained by the White River headwaters in northwestern Nebraska and drains portions of Oglala Lakota, Fall River, Bennett, Pennington, Jackson, Mellette, Jones, and Todd Counties located upstream of the Little White River confluence. The Little White River watershed is drained by the Little White River headwaters in Oglala Lakota County, draining portions of Nebraska, and Bennett, Todd, and Mellette Counties before merging with the White River approximately 12 miles southeast of the town of Murdo. The Little White River has more uniform flow than the White River due to a permeable sand formation allowing precipitation seeping into the ground to move laterally into the stream through springs and seeps (Ellis, et al. 1971). The lower White River section, after receiving contributing flow from the Little White and upper White rivers, also drains

portions of Mellette, Jones, Todd, Tripp, and Lyman Counties before discharging to the Missouri River just south of the town of Oacoma.

A percentile is a measure used in statistics to indicate the value below which a given percentage of observations in a group of observations fall, in this case daily flows. The percentiles shown correspond to flow scenarios during drier conditions when water would be in short supply. A percentile hydrograph can also give an indication of the time of year when water can be expected to be available at the gage location.

The USGS Stream Gaging No. 06447450 White River near White River, SD is located approximately 2 miles upstream from the confluence of the White and Little White rivers. Figure 2, shows three statistically derived flow levels consisting of the daily median (or 50 percentile), the 25 percentile, and the 10 percentile daily flow values for this stream gage. As this figure indicates, there is an increase in flow in the White River corresponding to spring snowmelt and spring rain events. The figure shows the median or 50 percentile hydrograph for this stream gage exhibits the daily flow values at or below this level on average one out of two years and also indicates flow curtailing in the mid-July to early September time frame before leveling off. It should be noted during any given year, flow in the river is not going to exactly mirror the median flow values. Since the median daily value is the center value with half the measured flow values greater and half less, what median values do provide is an overall indication of the historical flow characteristics for the stream at that location based upon the period of record. The hydrograph also shows there is a significant decline in available water corresponding with the 25 and 10 percentile levels from mid-to-late June.

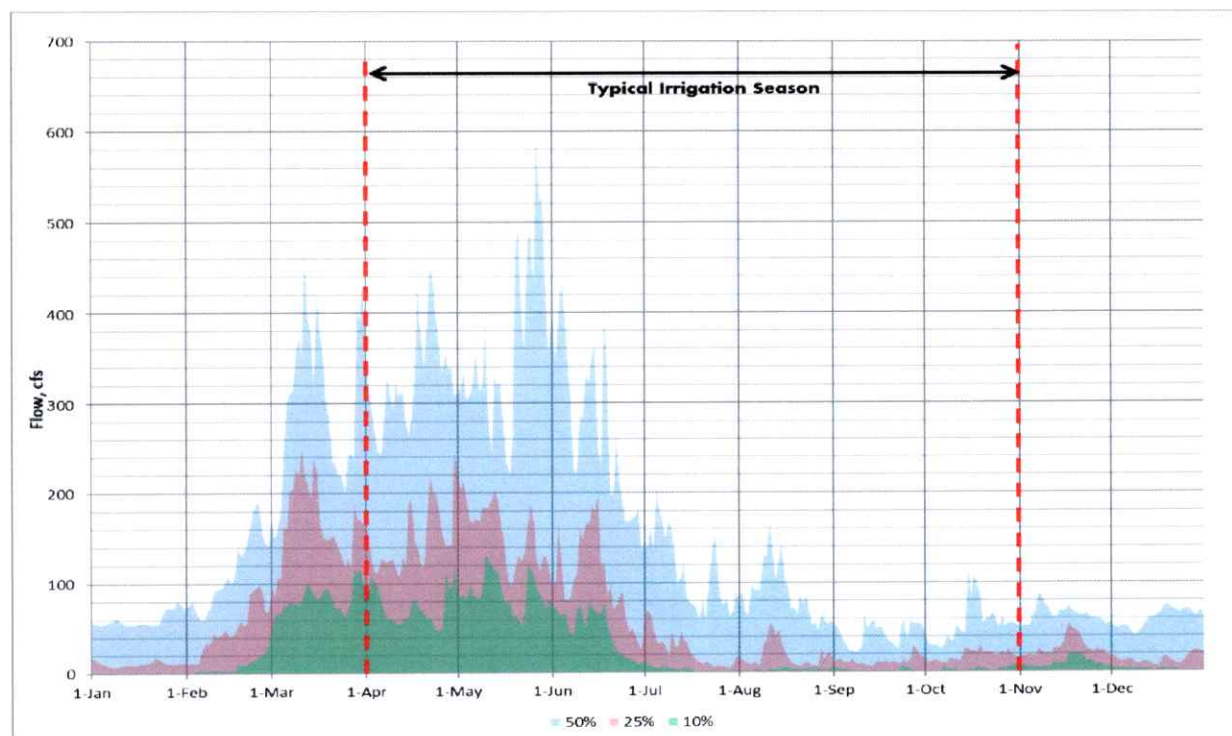


Figure 2. Daily percentile flow hydrographs for the USGS White River near White River 2001-2022, contributing drainage area 6202 mi² (USGS, 2023).

The USGS Stream Gaging No. 06450500 Little White River near White River, SD is located approximately 14.5 miles upstream from the confluence of the Little White River with the White River. Figure 3, indicates there is an increase in flow in the Little White River corresponding to spring snowmelt and rain events. The figure shows the median or 50, 25 and 10 percentile hydrograph levels for this stream and indicates flow at each of the three percentiles peaks in late March and steadily declines until the first of August. Flow then levels off for the remainder of the irrigation season but generally a base flow is maintained throughout the year.

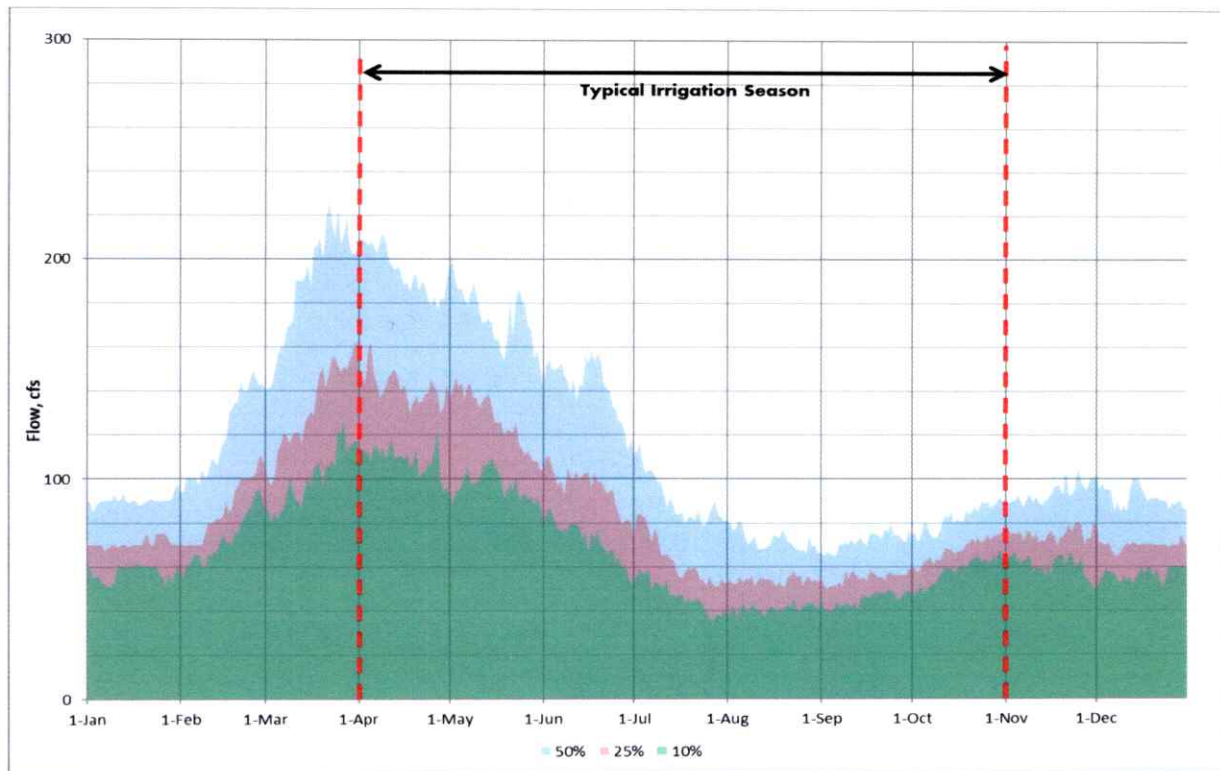


Figure 3. Daily percentile flow hydrographs for the USGS Little White River near White River, 1949-2022, contributing drainage area 1,495 mi² (USGS, 2023).

The USGS Stream Gaging No. 06452000 White River near Oacoma, SD is located approximately 55 river miles downstream from the confluence of the White and Little White rivers and approximately 16 miles upstream from the point where the White River flows into the Missouri River on Lake Francis Case. Figure 4 is a hydrograph showing the 50, 25 and 10 percentile levels similar to what was shown in the previous two figures. The median or 50 percentile hydrograph for this stream gage exhibits the daily flow values at or below this level on average one out of two years, and shows an increase in flow in the White River starting in early February corresponding to early spring runoff and maintains strong flows through most of June before tailing off through the remainder of the summer and fall months. At the 50 percentile level corresponding flow can be expected to be in excess of 40 cubic feet of water per second (cfs) throughout the year on average one out of two years. Looking at the hydrographs corresponding to the 25 and 10 percentiles, they show a similar trend to the 50 percentile curve with increased flows in February and tailing off in the latter part of June. The 25 percentile level shows the daily flow values at or below this level on average one out of four years, indicating flows remain above the 40 cfs level except for a period December through January. At the 10 percentile level, corresponding to the daily flow values

at or below this level on average one out of ten years, flows stay above 20 cfs except during the three week period from the first week of August through the first of September and the six week period in December and January, which is outside the irrigation season.

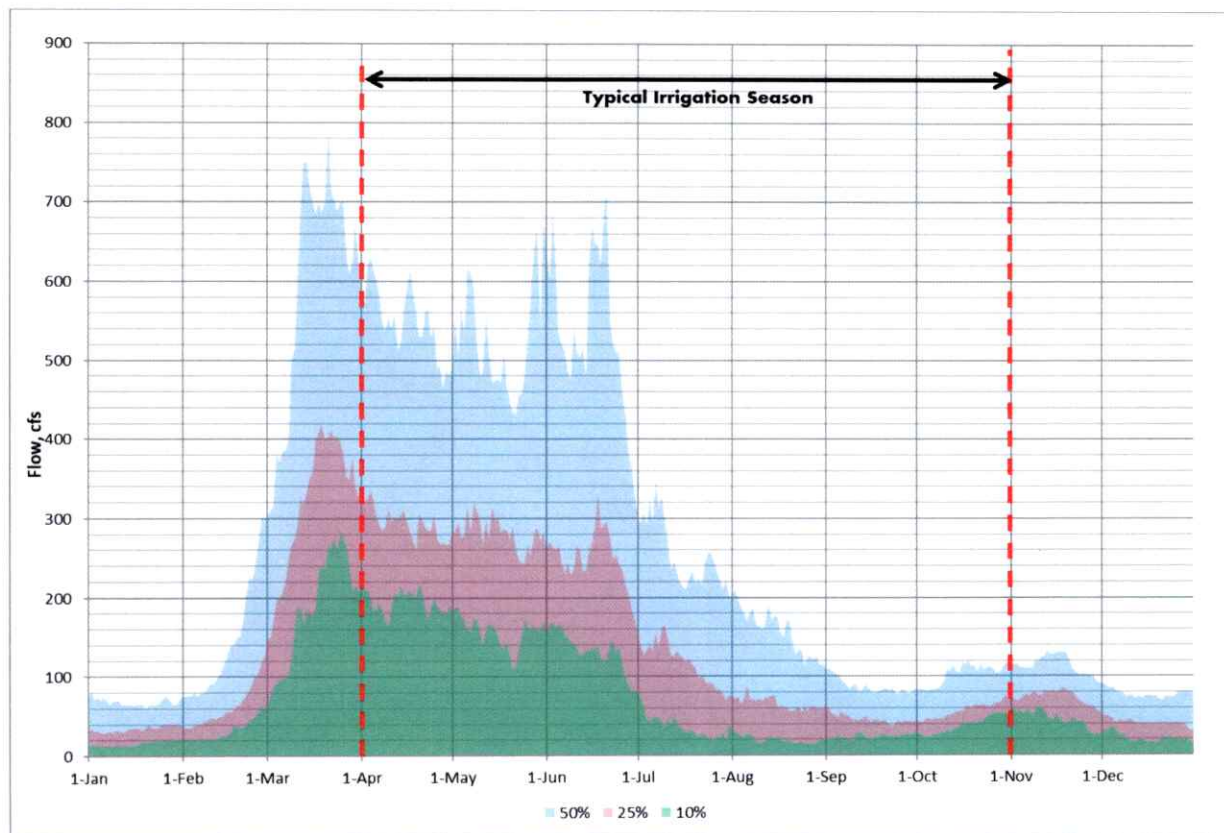


Figure 4. Daily percentile flow hydrographs for the USGS White River near Oacoma, 1928-2022, contributing drainage area 7,697 mi² (USGS, 2023).

The Water Management Board Authority

SDCL 46-1-14 gives the Water Management Board the authority to amend water right permits. Water permits issued by the board may be amended by the board with priority retained upon amendment. The board may alter terms, conditions, restrictions, qualifications, or quantifications.

South Dakota Codified Law

46-1-14. Terms and conditions of permits and licenses--Amendment. The Water Management Board may issue any permit or license subject to terms, conditions, restrictions, qualifications, quantifications, or limitations on perpetuity consistent with this chapter which it considers necessary to protect the public interest and which are related to matters within the jurisdiction of the board. Water rights issued pursuant to this section may be amended by the board and priority is retained upon amendment. Upon amendment the board may alter terms, conditions, restrictions, qualifications, or quantifications consistent with this chapter.

46-2-3.1. Delegation of authority to chief engineer--Restrictions. The Water Management Board may delegate to the chief engineer authority to act on its behalf concerning the quasi-judicial functions of interpreting,

applying, and enforcing existing rules and laws and ordering action or abatement of action. The board may not delegate any other quasi-judicial functions as defined in § 1-32-1, except as otherwise provided by law. The board may promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 1-26 to delegate to the chief engineer the authority to issue permits pursuant to § 46-1-14.

46-2-17. Chief engineer's general enforcement authority. The chief engineer may:

- 1) Investigate the use of the waters of the state and compliance with the provisions of water permits, licenses, rules, regulations, and laws relating to water rights.
- 2) Institute enforcement and other proceedings before the Water Management Board;
- 3) Enforce orders of the board; and
- 4) Perform other acts authorized by statute or regulation.

46-2-18. Chief engineer's authority to order discontinuance of water use. The provisions of chapter 1-26 notwithstanding, the chief engineer may, after appropriate investigation, issue an order to any person to shut off or limit the person's use of surface or groundwater, or to plug or otherwise control a well. The order may be issued only to protect another user who has higher or earlier priority or to cause a user of water to discontinue the use of water to which the user has no legal right. Upon a refusal to obey the order, the chief engineer may request a court of proper jurisdiction to issue a temporary restraining order or injunction to effectuate the provisions of the order.

Review of Existing Water Rights and Reported Use

A review of Water Right Program files shows there have been 200 water permits/rights issued from either the White or Little White rivers, some with priority dates going back to 1901. Many of these have been cancelled due to abandonment or forfeiture, some have been incorporated into other water permits, and some remain active. Currently, there are 82 existing permits/rights appropriating 190.9 cfs from the White River. Eighty of the existing permits/rights are for irrigation use and the other two are for small dams used for domestic and recreation purposes. Figure 5 shows a comparison between the water appropriated for irrigation use and the annual reported use by these irrigators for the years 1995 to 2021. As this figure indicates except for three years in the early 2000's, less than 10% of the water appropriated annually for irrigation was reported to be used (Water Rights. 2023).

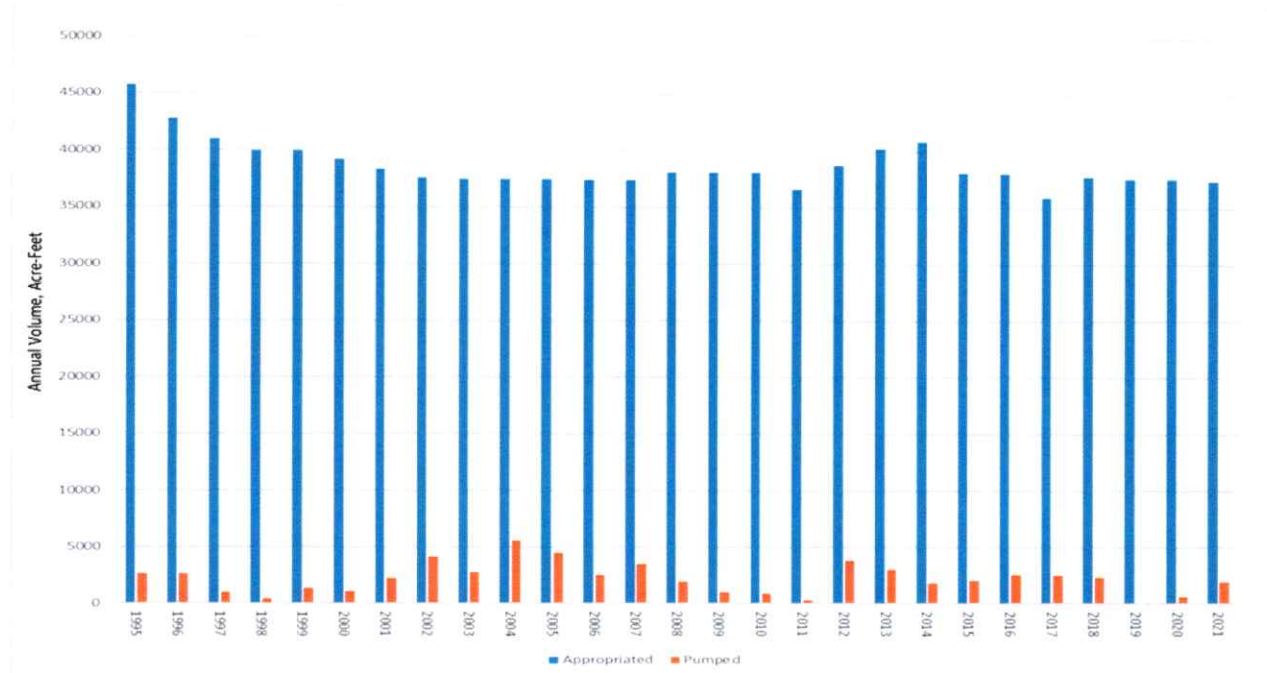


Figure 5. Total irrigation allocation and reported use from the White River (Water Rights, 2023).

Qualification Status

An examination of water right files found the Water Resources Commission, a predecessor to the Water Management Board, placed the first low flow bypass qualification, on a White River water permits in Lyman and Jackson counties in 1964. (Water Rights, 2023). In January of 1977, the Water Rights Commission, another predecessor to the Water Management Board, approved several deferred White River applications with priority dates going back to April 12, 1976, and placed a June 1 cutoff qualification on them. This same qualification has been placed on all White River permits issued since then.

In 2012, the Water Rights Program received an application for a water permit to irrigate from the White River in the river reach downstream from the Little White confluence. The analysis for that application resulted in a qualification to the issued water permit that the permit holder may request written authorization from the Chief Engineer to allow the irrigator to continue irrigating after the June 1 shutoff date. Prior to issuing the written authorization, the Chief Engineer would determine whether an appropriate base flow level was present. A 20 cfs bypass has been used in on other major rivers in South Dakota to provide for a base flow to insure domestic/livestock water needs are satisfied. It was determined a minimum base flow of 20 cfs bypass after pumping, as measured at the USGS gaging station, White River near Oacoma, was needed to allow the Chief Engineer to provide written authorization to continue using water. The permit was issued with the following qualifications (Water Rights. 2023).

1. This Permit authorizes the diversion of water from the dugout adjacent to the White River until June 1 of each calendar year. After June 1, there shall be no diversions under this Permit unless written authorization is issued by the Chief Engineer. Diversion under this Permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Chief Engineer.

2. Diversions from the dugout adjacent to the White River are authorized only when flow at the USGS Gaging Station No. 06452000 – White River near Oacoma is at least 20 cfs while pumping under this Permit.

Since that water permit was issued in 2012, the 20 cfs bypass as measured at the Oacoma stream gage criteria has been utilized multiple times when issuing written authorization to allow pumping after the June 1 cutoff in this river reach. This criterion has worked well.

Analysis and Proposed Qualification Revisions

The original cutoff date and the later adopted bypass requirement were analyzed to determine whether the 20 cfs bypass requirement would be a more effective means of managing active water rights going forward in the lower reach of the White River rather than a June 1 mandatory shutoff date. The review took into consideration the existing water rights, the qualifications, the authorized use, the location of the diversion points, the annual period of use, and historic stream flow data.

Upper White River

Water rights/permits with priority dates junior to April 11, 1976, located on the upper White River in the river reach upstream from the confluence with the Little White River contain the June 1 mandatory shutoff qualification.

The percentile hydrograph for USGS Stream Gaging No. 06447450 White River near White River, SD shown in Figure 2, indicates a decline in flow during the month of June at the three percentile levels shown (USGS. 2023). At the 10 and 25 percentile levels, corresponding to daily flow values at or below the indicated level on average one out of four years and one out of ten years respectively, show expected flow levels falling to a range of 20 cfs or below. At this time the current June 1 cutoff qualification appears to be working well, with irrigators requesting pumping variances when needed. A review of Water Rights Program files indicates this occurs sporadically with it most recently happening in the summer of 2022. An irrigator near Kadoka requested a temporary variance to pump runoff from a large upstream thunderstorm (Water Rights. 2023). At this time the recommendation is to leave the existing qualification requirements in place for current and future water rights/permits located in this river reach because the current qualification is working well.

Lower White River

Water rights/permits with priority dates junior to April 11, 1976, located on the lower White River in the river reach downstream from the confluence with the Little White River, contain the June 1 mandatory shutoff qualification.

In 2012, the Water Rights Program received Water Permit Application No. 2681-2, to divert water for irrigation from the lower White River reach. The analysis for that application determined that based upon historical flow data, there was a likelihood that water would be available many years in this reach after June 1 and there was a possibility the permit holder would be asking for a variance to allow pumping after the mandatory shutoff date. For the Chief Engineer to be able to grant written authorization to allow pumping and protect the base flow of the river, a new qualification was adopted (Water Rights. 2023).

- Diversions from the White River are authorized only when flow at the USGS Gaging Station No. 06452000 – White River near Oacoma is at least 20 cfs.

Since 2012, the June 1 mandatory shutoff and the 20 cfs bypass qualifications have been placed on water permits issued in the lower White River reach. The Water Rights Program has received numerous requests from these permit holders over multiple years to allow diversions from the river after June 1. Based upon the experience the Water Rights Program has gained managing use based off the 20 cfs bypass qualification, we found this qualification to be an effective water management tool for this lower reach of the White River.

There are 32 water permits/rights appropriating 86.81 cfs from the White River reach downstream of the Little White River confluence. Of these, there are 11 water permits/rights appropriating 29.54 cfs containing the qualification requiring diversions cease after June 1st of each calendar year (Water Rights. 2023). Based upon the review of the stream gaging, reported water use, and our experience with using the White River stream gage near Oacoma to regulate water diversions, I recommend for the water permits/rights located in the lower White River reach, the June 1st mandatory shutoff qualification be removed and the qualification requiring a 20 cfs bypass as measured at the White River near Oacoma stream gage be added to those water permits/rights that do not already have it.

Specific Proposed Qualification Revisions by Water Permit

To standardize the bypass qualifications for the existing water permits containing a June 1 mandatory shutoff qualification in the lower White River reach downstream from the Little White River confluence to Missouri River, the following changes are proposed:

Amendment to the qualifications contained in Water Right No. 1474-2

Delete Qualification:

Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be by-passed. This permit authorizes the diversion of water from the White River for either to the land directly or off-stream storage until June 1 of each calendar year. After June 1, there shall be no diversions from the White River under this Permit unless written authorization is issued by the Water Rights Commission or its legally appointed representative. Diversion under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Commission or its Representative.

Add Qualifications:

- Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be bypassed.
- Diversions from the White River are authorized only when flow at the USGS Gaging Station No. 06452000 – White River near Oacoma is at least 20 cfs.
- Diversion of water under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Chief Engineer.
- The Water Management Board retains jurisdiction of this water right in the event additional information shows that adjustments need to be made to the bypass requirements.

Amendment to the qualifications contained in Water Right No. 1501-2

Delete Qualification:

Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be by-passed. This permit authorizes the diversion of water from the White River for either to the land directly or off-stream storage until June 1 of each calendar year. After June 1,

there shall be no diversions from the White River under this Permit unless written authorization is issued by the Water Rights Commission or its legally appointed representative. Diversion under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Commission or its Representative.

Add Qualifications:

- Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be bypassed.
- Diversions from the White River are authorized only when flow at the USGS Gaging Station No. 06452000 – White River near Oacoma is at least 20 cfs.
- Diversion of water under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Chief Engineer.
- The Water Management Board retains jurisdiction of this water right in the event additional information shows that adjustments need to be made to the bypass requirements.

Amendment to the qualifications contained in Water Right No. 1504-2

Delete Qualification:

Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be by-passed. This permit authorizes the diversion of water from the White River for irrigation to the land directly until June 1 of each calendar year. After June 1, there shall be no diversions from the White River under this Permit unless written authorization is issued by the Water Rights Commission or its legally appointed representative. Diversion under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Commission or its Representative.

Add Qualifications:

- Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be bypassed.
- Diversions from the White River are authorized only when flow at the USGS Gaging Station No. 06452000 – White River near Oacoma is at least 20 cfs.
- Diversion of water under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Chief Engineer.
- The Water Management Board retains jurisdiction of this water right in the event additional information shows that adjustments need to be made to the bypass requirements.

Amendment to the qualifications contained in Water Right No. 1529-2

Delete Qualification:

Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be by-passed. This permit authorizes the diversion of water from the White River for irrigation to the land directly until June 1 of each calendar year. After June 1, there shall be no diversions from the White River under this Permit unless written authorization is issued by the Water Rights Commission or its legally appointed representative. Diversion under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Commission or its Representative.

Add Qualifications:

- Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be bypassed.
- Diversions from the White River are authorized only when flow at the USGS Gaging Station No. 06452000 – White River near Oacoma is at least 20 cfs.
- Diversion of water under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Chief Engineer.
- The Water Management Board retains jurisdiction of this water right in the event additional information shows that adjustments need to be made to the bypass requirements.

Amendment to the qualifications contained in Water Right No. 1557-2

Delete Qualification:

Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be by-passed. This permit authorizes the diversion of water from the White River for irrigation to the land directly until June 1 of each calendar year. After June 1, there shall be no diversions from the White River under this Permit unless written authorization is issued by the Water Rights Commission or its legally appointed representative. Diversion under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Commission or its Representative.

Add Qualifications:

- Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be bypassed.
- Diversions from the White River are authorized only when flow at the USGS Gaging Station No. 06452000 – White River near Oacoma is at least 20 cfs.
- Diversion of water under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Chief Engineer.
- The Water Management Board retains jurisdiction of this water right in the event additional information shows that adjustments need to be made to the bypass requirements.

Amendment to the qualifications contained in Water Right No. 1630-2

Delete Qualification:

Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be by-passed. This permit authorizes the diversion of water from the White River for off-stream storage until June 1st of each calendar year. After June 1st, there shall be no diversions from the White River under this Permit unless written authorization is issued by the Water Management Board or its legally appointed representative. Diversion under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Board or its representative.

Add Qualifications:

- Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be bypassed.
- Diversions from the White River are authorized only when flow at the USGS Gaging Station No. 06452000 – White River near Oacoma is at least 20 cfs.
- Diversion of water under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Chief Engineer.

- The Water Management Board retains jurisdiction of this water right in the event additional information shows that adjustments need to be made to the bypass requirements.

Amendment to the qualifications contained in Water Right No. 1765-2

Delete Qualification:

Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be by-passed. This permit authorizes the diversion of water from the White River for either to the land directly or off-stream storage until June 1 of each calendar year. After June 1, there shall be no diversions from the White River under this Permit unless written authorization is issued by the Water Rights Commission or its legally appointed representative. Diversion under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Commission or its Representative.

Add Qualifications:

- Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be bypassed.
- Diversions from the White River are authorized only when flow at the USGS Gaging Station No. 06452000 – White River near Oacoma is at least 20 cfs.
- Diversion of water under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Chief Engineer.
- The Water Management Board retains jurisdiction of this water right in the event additional information shows that adjustments need to be made to the bypass requirements.

Amendment to the qualifications contained in Water Right No. 2312-2

Delete Qualification:

Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be by-passed. This permit authorizes the diversion of water from the White River for irrigation to the land directly until June 1 of each calendar year. After June 1, there shall be no diversions from the White River under this Permit unless written authorization is issued by the Water Rights Commission or its legally appointed representative. Diversion under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Commission or its Representative.

Add Qualifications:

- Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be bypassed.
- Diversions from the White River are authorized only when flow at the USGS Gaging Station No. 06452000 – White River near Oacoma is at least 20 cfs.
- Diversion of water under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Chief Engineer.
- The Water Management Board retains jurisdiction of this water right in the event additional information shows that adjustments need to be made to the bypass requirements.

The water rights/permits listed below were issued with a separate qualification that should be retained:

- Diversions from the White River are authorized only when flow at the USGS Gaging Station No. 06452000 – White River near Oacoma is at least 20 cfs while pumping under this water right.

Amendment to the qualifications contained in Water Right No. 2681A-2

Delete Qualification:

Water Permit No. 2681-2 authorizes the diversion of water from the White River for irrigation to the land directly or to two storage dams until June 1st of each calendar year. After June 1st, there shall be no diversions from the White River under this Permit unless written authorization is issued by the Chief Engineer. Diversion of water under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Chief Engineer.

Add Qualifications:

- Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be bypassed.
- Diversion of water under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Chief Engineer.
- The Water Management Board retains jurisdiction of this water right in the event additional information shows that adjustments need to be made to the bypass requirements.

Amendment to the qualifications contained in Water Right No. 2701-2

Delete Qualifications:

Water Permit No. 2701-2 authorizes the diversion of water from the White River for irrigation to the land directly or to the existing dugout and storage dam authorized by Water Right No. 1415A-2 and Water Permit No. 2647-2 until June 1st of each calendar year. After June 1st, there shall be no diversions from the White River under this Permit unless written authorization is issued by the Chief Engineer. Diversion of water under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Chief Engineer. *(Water Right No. 1415A-2 and Water Permit No. 2647-2 have been incorporated and are now licensed under No. 2647-2.)*

Water from the White River may be diverted to the dugout and existing dam authorized by Water Right No. 1415A-2 and Water Permit No. 2647-2 subject to qualifications Nos. 1 and 2. Diversion of stored water from either the dugout or the dam for irrigation of the authorized land is not subject the June 1st shut-off. *(Water Right No. 1415A-2 and Water Permit No. 2647-2 have been incorporated and are now licensed under No. 2647-2.)*

Add Qualifications:

- Low flows as needed for downstream domestic use, including livestock watering and prior water rights must be bypassed.
- Water Right No. 2701-2 authorizes the diversion of water from the White River for irrigation to the land directly or to the existing dugout and storage dam authorized by Water Right No. 2647-2
- Diversion of water under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Chief Engineer.
- The Water Management Board is retaining jurisdiction of this permit in the event additional information shows that adjustments need to be made to the bypass requirements.

Amendment to the qualifications contained in Water Permit No. 2835-2

Delete Qualification:

This permit authorizes the diversion of water from the dugout adjacent to the White River until June 1 of each calendar year. After June 1, there shall be no diversions from the White River under this Permit unless written authorization is issued by the Chief Engineer. Diversion under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Chief Engineer.

Add Qualifications:

- This permit authorizes the diversion of water from the dugout adjacent and hydraulically connected to the White River. Diversion of water under this permit shall be in accordance with any written orders issued by the Chief Engineer.
- The Water Management Board retains jurisdiction of this water right in the event additional information shows that adjustments need to be made to the bypass requirements.



Mark D. Rath
Natural Resources Engineer III

References

Ellis, M. J. and D.G. Adolphson. 1971. Hydrologic Atlas 357, Hydrogeology of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota. United States Geologic Survey Publication Warehouse.

USGS. 2023. United States Geological Survey, National Water Information System – Stream Gaging Station Network for South Dakota.

Water Rights. 2023. Water Right/Permit Files. SD DANR-Water Rights Program, Joe Foss Bldg., Pierre, South Dakota.



**DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 E. CAPITOL AVE
PIERRE SD 57501-3182
danr.sd.gov

April 14, 2023

Subject: Amendment of the Mandatory Shutoff Qualification on White River Water Rights

Dear White River Water Right Holder,

The SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources has reviewed all White River water rights and the historical, United States Geological Survey (USGS) stream flow records. The Chief Engineer is recommending amending the mandatory June 1 shutoff qualification on 11 junior priority White River water rights located in the reach between the Little White River confluence and the Missouri River. The intent is to allow for more efficient use of water when it is available by utilizing a bypass requirement as measured at a USGS stream flow gaging station for those water users.

The proposed amendment to those water rights would replace the mandatory June 1 shutoff qualification with a 20 cfs of flow bypass measured at the USGS Oacoma streamflow gaging station. This amendment would not be expected adversely impact your use of the White River as authorized by your water right(s). The amendment designates a US Geological Survey streamflow gaging station as the measuring point to determine if pumping is allowed. The gaging station has real time flow information that can be accessed on-line at <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/sd/nwis/rt>.

A hearing before the Water Management Board is scheduled at 9:45 AM, Wednesday, May 3, 2023, in the Matthew Training Center, Joe Foss Building, 523 E Capitol Avenue, Pierre SD. Enclosed is the notice to be published on or before April 13, 2023, in one newspaper from each of the 9 counties that the White River flows through. This notice provides information on filing a petition in either support or opposition to the proposed amendment. The filing of a petition must be postmarked by April 24, 2023. Additionally filing a petition affords you the opportunity to participate in the May 3rd hearing before the Board if you choose.

The staff report including affected water rights and the proposed changes are available at <http://danr.sd.gov/public> or contact Mark Rath at 605 773-3352 or mark.rath@state.sd.us. If you have questions; please call. DANR is willing to work to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Chief Engineer

Water Rights Program, DANR



**DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 E. CAPITOL AVE
PIERRE SD 57501-3182
danr.sd.gov

January 14, 2025

NOTICE

TO: SLOVEK RANCH LLLP, WILLIAM C SLOVEK, GENERAL PARTNER, 20901 SLOVEK RD, PHILIP, SD 57567

FROM: Ron Duvall, Engineer III
for Eric Gronlund, Chief Engineer
Water Rights Program

SUBJECT: Reporting Requirement for 2024 Irrigation Questionnaire(s)

Our records indicate your 2024 Irrigation Questionnaire has not been submitted for Permit No(s) 305-2, 339-2, 633A-2 as required by administrative rule 74:02:01:14.02. The request for the Questionnaire was dated October 23, 2024. The Water Management Board has directed owners of water permits who have not submitted the 2024 Irrigation Questionnaire be given notice of hearing to determine if any Board action is to be taken concerning this issue.

The hearing will be held on **Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 9:30 am (Central Time)** in the Floyd Matthew Training Center, Joe Foss Building, 523 E Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD and will be conducted pursuant to SDCL 46-1-12, 46-1-14, 46-2-9, 46-2-11 and 46-2-17. These are contested case hearings pursuant to Chapter 1-26. Following the hearing, the Water Management Board can:

1. Amend Permit No(s) 305-2, 339-2, 633A-2 to require the Irrigation Water Use Questionnaire to be submitted each year;
2. Postpone any action; or
3. Take no action.

The hearing is an adversary proceeding. The permit owner has the right to be present or to be represented by a lawyer. These and other due process rights will be forfeited if they are not exercised. Decisions of the Board may be appealed to the Circuit Court and the State Supreme Court as provided by law.

If the questionnaire(s) is (are) received in this office before the **March 5, 2025**, hearing you will no longer be in violation of your permit and your name will be removed from the Board agenda. Enclosed are additional questionnaire(s) for your use. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Amanda Dewell at (605) 773-3352 or email at amanda.dewell@state.sd.us. **If you prefer, you can complete the questionnaire online at the following link: <https://danr.sd.gov/iq> using this password: LYMBRZ**

Note: Please contact the Water Rights Program, Joe Foss Building, 523 E Capitol, Pierre, SD (605-773-3352) to assure access to the meeting room for the handicapped or to obtain an interpreter for the hearing impaired.



**DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 E. CAPITOL AVE
PIERRE SD 57501-3182
danr.sd.gov

January 24, 2025

305-2, 339-2 & 633A-2

Slovek Ranch LLLP
c/o William C Slovek
20925 Slovek Rd
Philip SD 57567

Dear Mr. Slovek:

I am writing to acknowledge the receipt of your 2024 irrigation questionnaire(s).

You may disregard the January 14, 2025, "Notice" concerning the reporting requirements for Water Permit No(s). 305-2, 339-2 & 633A-2. The information was received prior to the March 5, 2025, Water Management Board meeting and the above listed permit number(s) have been removed from the agenda.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Amanda Dewell
Permitting Administrator
Water Rights Program
605 773-3352
Amanda.Dewell@state.sd.us



**DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 E. CAPITOL AVE
PIERRE SD 57501-3182
danr.sd.gov

March 5, 2025

633A-2
305-2 & 339-2

Slovak Ranch LLLP
c/o William C Slovek
20925 Slovek Rd
Philip SD 57567

Dear Mr. Slovek:

The Water Rights Program is in receipt of the 2024 Irrigation Questionnaire you submitted for Water Right Nos. 305-2, 339-2, and 633A-2.

Water Right No. 305-2 authorizes the diversion of 0.1 cfs (630 gpm) from the White River for the irrigation of 99.8 acres located within portions of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, Section 31-T3S-R22E.

Water Right No. 339-2 authorizes the diversion of 2.01 cfs (900 gpm) from the White River for the irrigation of 140.89 acres located within portions of Section 32 & Section 33; all in T3S-R21E.

Water Right No. 633A-2 authorizes the diversion of 1.55 cfs (695 gpm) from the White River for the irrigation of 112 acres located within portions of Lot 2 & Lot 3, Section 31-T3S-R22E and portions of Lot 1 & Lot 2 Section 36-T3S-R21E.

On this year's questionnaire you indicated that so long as Slovak Ranch LLLP has held these water rights, irrigation systems have never been constructed or used on the property.

Pursuant to SDCL 46-5-37, if water appropriated under a permit/water right, is not placed to beneficial use for a period of three or more years (without legal excuse), the unused position of the permit/water right may be subject to cancellation due to abandonment or forfeiture.

Please contact me to discuss potential cancellation of Water Right Nos. 305-2, 339-2 & 633A-2.

Sincerely,

Amanda Dewell
Permitting Administrator
Water Rights Program
605 773-3352
Amanda.Dewell@state.sd.us

**File Nos. 305-2,
339-2, 633A-2**

WATER RIGHTS PROGRAM -- FILE DOCUMENTATION

NAME & ADDRESS: Bill Slovek, Philip SD

DATE: 03/11/2025

TELEPHONE: +1 605-685-3588

RE: History of non-irrigation

COMMENTS:

After receiving the letter I'd sent, dated March 5, 2025, Bill called to discuss the history of irrigation on the properties authorized by WR Nos. 305-2, 339-2, and 633A-2.

He said that there are dikes in place to catch water from White River and that no pivot systems (to his knowledge) had ever been on the property but rather it was irrigated by large pumps being placed into the water and flood irrigating. Since purchasing the property, the Sloveks have not practiced irrigation in part due to the high silt content of the river water at times which would damage any pumps placed into the river.

I looked over annual IQ reporting from other permit holders along that portion of the White River and it appears that no irrigation has taken place under any of those permits/rights for many years, due to the erratic nature of the river. Permit holders have reported a mix of sufficient moisture, flood events, low water levels, and extreme drought as reasons for not irrigating, which leads me to believe this is a difficult source to appropriate from.

Bill said he was not aware of AR 74:02:01:37.1, allowing him to claim legal excuses for not irrigating. We also discussed SDCL 46-5-37, which requires water to be placed to beneficial use for (with exception to legal excuses). He expressed a deep desire to maintain the water rights and eager to irrigate as soon as the river allowed.

I will not be pursuing cancellation of WR Nos. 305-2, 339-2, or 633A-2 at this time.



Amanda Dewell
Water Rights Program