

Reading Your Meter – Groundwater Withdrawal

Why Read Your Meter?

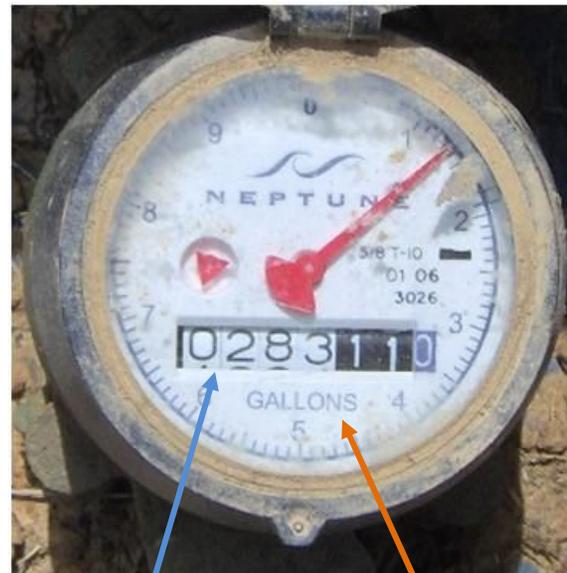
Recording groundwater withdrawal volumes is critical in continuing to understand the health of Virginia’s aquifers. Reporting water use is required under 9VAC25-200 et seq. and 9VAC610. If a responsible party withdraws more than 300,000 gallons of water in a given month, they are required to obtain a permit from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to utilize groundwater. Once a permittee has been granted the right to withdraw a given volume of water by DEQ, they must monitor and record how much water they withdraw on a monthly basis. This helps DEQ ensure that permit conditions are being followed. **Failure by the permittee** to record and report monthly withdrawals could **result in permit noncompliance** and become an issue for enforcement.

When to Read Your Meter?

Quarterly reports are due to DEQ no later than the 10th of the first month following the quarter (e.g., first quarter reports are due no later than the 10th of April). Quarterly Groundwater Withdrawal Report Forms will be provided for every permittee. The permittee should check their meter as close to the last day of every month as possible and record the value on the meter’s register. The previous month’s value should then be subtracted from the current reading to obtain a value representing the total withdrawal volume for that month. For example, if your meter reads 00859316 at the end of March and your February reading was 00826495, your water use for March = 00859316 – 00826495 = 00032821, or 32,821 gallons. Reading the meter many days early or late will result in erroneous monthly values.

How to Read Your Meter

Be sure to read your meter’s **totalizer** properly. A totalizer functions much like an odometer for water that has flowed through your meter. Not every totalizer is the same, and some may be read in the **tens, hundreds, or thousands** of gallons. Ensuring the proper number of zeroes is recorded is critical to obtain a proper volume. Your meter will likely read in **gallons (gal.)** or **cubic feet (ft.³) meters**. If your meter reads in **ft.³**, you must multiply the gauge value by 7.48051948. In addition to withdrawal volume, most meters also have a **leak detector**. This will appear as a small red triangle. If, when water is not being pumped, the triangle is spinning, the system may have a leak requiring repair. If your meter is defective, you must estimate your monthly withdrawal using approved engineering principles. Malfunctioning meters need to be replaced within 30 days of discovery.

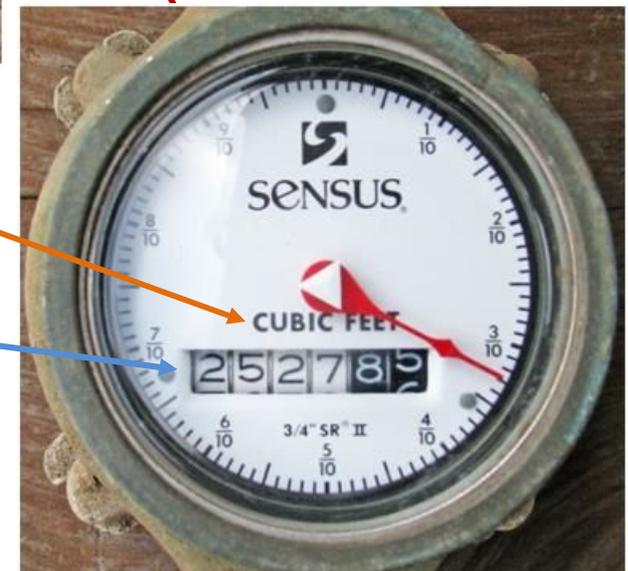


Register reading 0,283,110 gal. withdrawn since installation.

Meter Units

Multiply 252785 by 7.48051948 to obtain a value of 1,890,963 gal

Leak Detector



Reading Your Meter (cont.)

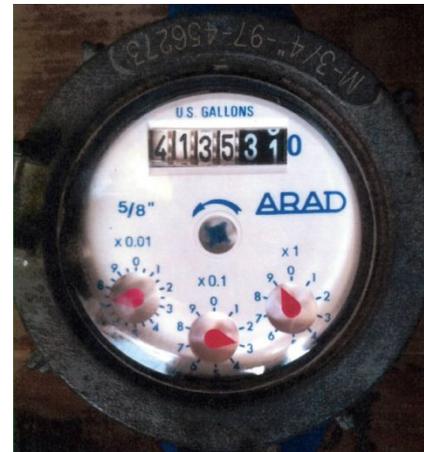
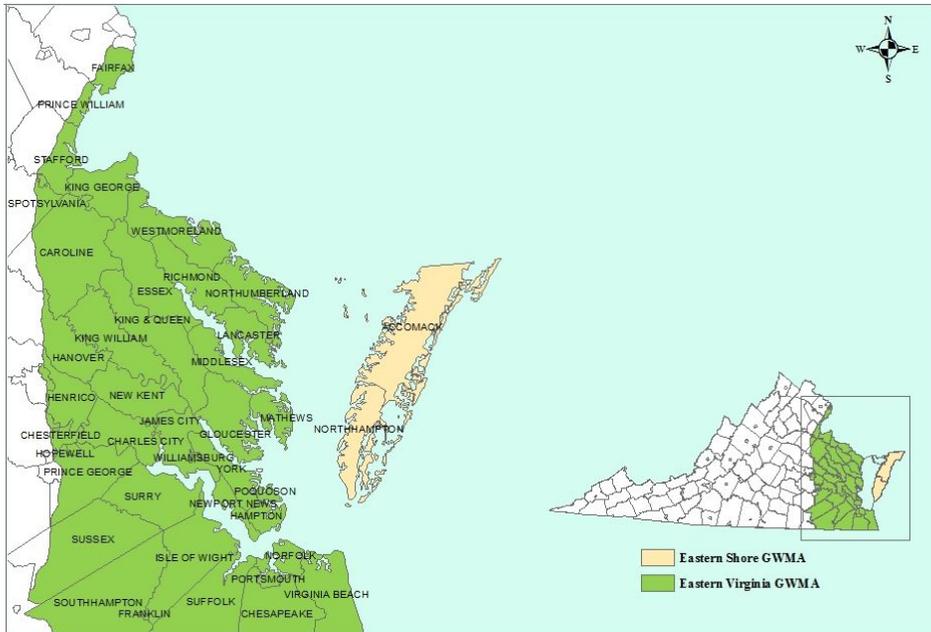
What to Watch For

Eventually, your meter will **rollover**. This occurs when the meter rolls back to zero and begins again. If this happens, you should calculate how many gallons were withdrawn from the previous reading to the point of rollover, and then add to that value the new amount displayed on your totalizer. This will give an accurate measure of your monthly water use.

If your connection uses a digital water meter (right), extra care should be given when reporting your water use data to ensure the proper **decimal value** has been recorded. Anyway submitting monthly withdrawal values should report the entire number displayed on the screen including any leading zeros.

Some meters will have a **fixed number of zeros** trailing the withdrawal value. These zeros represent the tens, hundreds, or thousandths place, and should be included in your monthly withdrawal value. For example, if a meter reads 00457 and has two trailing zeros, your reading would be 0,045,700 gallons.

Many new meters are digital rather than analog. Special care should be taken when reading the decimal point on these meters. This meter reads 00,101,013.00 gal.



Fixed number of zeros, reads 4,135,310 gal.

Leak Detector

Additional Information

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