

MY WATER RIGHTS

Why should I file for my water rights?

- I don't have automatic rights to the groundwater under my property. In order to establish water rights, I must file for them.
- Filing for water rights will protect me in the future. If my water is adversely impacted by gas development or for any other reason, I will have legal standing to protect my water or receive reimbursement for damages.
- Additionally, the date that I file prioritizes my rights to the water over any other parties who might later file for access to the same water source.



Now What?

- If gas development or other changes seem likely near my water supply, I should consider sending my water to be sampled for potential contaminants, including VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) to establish a baseline condition. AK approved labs found at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/lab/certchemlabs.aspx>
- Pay attention to changes in water quality or quantity. Report problems to AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Division of Land, Mining, & Water (DMLW).
- For more information, visit www.denalicitizens.org and <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/water/wrfact.htm>

What will I need?

- ❑ An “Application for Water Right” - form and further information available at: http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/forms/water/wr_app.pdf
- ❑ Copy of deed or lease agreement to property where water will be used. Water rights CAN be obtained for leased property.
- ❑ Copy of legal access document (e.g. *right of way, easement, permit*).
- ❑ Driller's well log for drilled wells.
- ❑ Photos, sketches, project description of water system.
- ❑ Legible map with meridian, township, range & section lines. Indicate location of water withdrawal, transmission, use, etc.
- ❑ Notarized *Statement of Beneficial Use of Water*, a form documenting the quantity & purpose of use for any existing well. Available at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/forms/index.htm#water>
- ❑ \$100 check payable to “Dept. of Natural Resources.”
- ❑ If more than 500 gallons per day are used, e.g. for businesses, agriculture, etc, other fees and requirements may apply. Contact DEC and DMLW for more information.

What do I do with these documents?

- ❑ *Make a copy to keep and send a set to:*
 - AK DNR MLW Fairbanks Office, 3700, Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709. 907-451-2790
- ❑ Once registered, I will record my water rights with my deed at the State's Recorders' Office.
- ❑ This process may vary & confirmation of water rights may take up to 2-5 years.