

## CHAPTER 30

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**WATER AND IRRIGATION**


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## SENATE BILL 13-072

BY SENATOR(S) Hodge, Baumgardner, Brophy, Giron, Roberts, Schwartz, Carroll;  
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Sonnenberg, Fischer, Coram, Ginal, Humphrey, Lebsock, McLachlan, Pettersen, Vigil, Young.

## AN ACT

CONCERNING THE DELETION OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR A FINAL PERMIT FOR ALL WELLS  
WITHDRAWING DESIGNATED GROUND WATER FROM THE DENVER BASIN AQUIFERS.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 37-90-108, **amend** (2) (a), (2) (d), and (3) (a) as follows:

**37-90-108. Final permit - evidence of well construction and beneficial use - limitations.** (2) (a) If the well or wells described in a conditional permit have been constructed in compliance with subsection (1) of this section, the applicant, within three years after the date of the issuance of said permit, shall furnish by sworn affidavit, in the form prescribed by the commission, evidence that water from such well or wells has been put to beneficial use; except that ~~the requirements of this paragraph (a) shall~~ DOES not apply to a well described in a conditional permit ~~issued on or after July 1, 1991,~~ to withdraw designated ground water from the Dawson, Denver, Arapahoe, or Laramie-Fox Hills aquifers.

(d) If the well described in a conditional permit ~~issued on or after July 1, 1991,~~ to withdraw designated ground water from the Dawson, Denver, Arapahoe, or Laramie-Fox Hills aquifers has been constructed in compliance with subsection (1) of this section, the applicant shall file a notice with the commission of commencement of beneficial use on a form prescribed by the commission within thirty days after the first beneficial use of any water withdrawn from ~~such~~ THE well.

(3) (a) (I) To the extent that the commission finds that water has been put to a beneficial use and that the other terms of the conditional permit have been complied with and after publication of the information required in the final permit, as provided in section 37-90-112, the commission shall order the state engineer to issue

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

a final permit to use designated ground water, containing such limitations and conditions as the commission deems necessary to prevent waste and to protect the rights of other appropriators. In determining the extent of beneficial use for the purpose of issuing final permits, the commission may use the same criteria for determining the amount of water used on each acre that has been irrigated that is used in evaluating the amount of water available for appropriation under section 37-90-107. ~~The provisions of This subparagraph (I) shall~~ DOES not apply to a well described in a conditional permit issued ~~on or after July 1, 1991,~~ to withdraw designated ground water from the Dawson, Denver, Arapahoe, or Laramie-Fox Hills aquifers.

(II) A final permit is not required to be issued for a well described in a conditional permit ~~issued on or after July 1, 1991,~~ to withdraw designated ground water from the Dawson, Denver, Arapahoe, or Laramie-Fox Hills aquifers. For such a well, a conditional permit, subject to the conditions of issuance of such a permit, shall be considered a final determination of a well's water right if the well is in compliance with all other applicable requirements of this article.

**SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date - applicability.** (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 7, 2013, if adjournment sine die is on May 8, 2013); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2014 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

(2) This act applies to permits issued for designated ground water from the Dawson, Denver, Arapahoe, or Laramie-Fox Hills aquifers before, on, or after the applicable effective date of this act.

Approved: March 15, 2013