WPIC Update: Water Rights Information System and Adjudication, July 20, 2025

Tab 1: Raw Data (forms and phone calls)

- Ownership
    - Currently working with stakeholders to clarify ownership updates, splits and severs. Oct. 2025 larger stakeholder feedback; Jan. 2026 implementation.
    - Future collaboration planned with DOR on use and efficiency of their records.
- Online forms
    - DNRC in the development phase of online forms for 602- exempt wells, 608- ownership updates, 600- permit, and 606- change applications.

Tab 2: Data Interface & Database

- 2022 Legislative Audit on the Water Rights Information System (WRIS)
- Presented progress report to the Legislative Audit Committee, June 17, 2024.
- Implementing all Legislative Audit recommendations:
    - Established a Data Quality Management Plan in April 2024.
    - Created data audit tables for changes and deletions from the database. Continue current SITSD retention protocols for data backup.
    - Developed a data dictionary to detail each element, its relative importance to the record, any constraints on input, where the data is collected, and who owns the data element.
    - Continue to review and edit any identified errors in the database and seek to improve data transparency and integration.

Tab 3: Scanned Documents (FileNet) & Historic Documents (Iron Mountain)

- Continue to follow the Secretary of State file retention policies and procedures.
- DNRC worked with SITSD to increase the usability of scanned documents requested by Water Court and stakeholders.
    - Made FileNet html page for Water Right Query System (WRQS) users to better navigate scanned documents (added column descriptions, identified previously viewed files, added the ability to download and view multiple documents at once, and allowed for sorting).
- Continue to make all files available via WRQS and rescan documents that do not meet quality standards.

Tab 4: Water Court Reports & Needs

- DNRC improved abstract speed on the WRQS.
- Custom built the adjudication planning mapper for the Water Court.
- All previously identified needs from the Water Court have been addressed.
- DNRC and the Water Court continue to work on any additional improvements or needs as they arise.

Tab 5: Water Right Query System (WRQS)

- DNRC conducted a working group session on May 23, 2024, for the WRQS. 138 participants were invited, 45 attended. Technical Project Services detailed current work and provided a walkthrough of the system and identified areas yet to be resolved.
- Positive feedback and discussion focused on adding more fields to the WRQS feature service, results table and enhanced search options.
- DNRC maintains a dedicated email for requests and recommendations for the site. All major requests from stakeholders have been addressed and DNRC continues to make improvements to the WRQS as requests arise.
- July 24, 2025, DNRC deployed the latest version of work on the WRQS. The progress table can be found on the WRQS "about" page.
- Created Water Mapper that parallels the use of the WRQS for advanced users.

Tab 6: Adjudication Process

- DNRC continues to meet with Water Court on adjudication process improvements. Relationships are stronger than ever; the team is solution oriented and meets monthly
- DNRC has addressed all previously identified work quality concerns for adjudication from the Water Court. DNRC and Water Court continue to work on any additional improvements or needs as they arise.
- Completely overhauled summary preparation process with Water Court, and drastically improved outcomes.
- June 2025 DNRC met the statutory adjudication benchmark for the completion of examination and reexamination of all claims.
- Summary reports delivered:
  - 2023 - 6
  - 2024 -14
  - 2025- 17 delivered, and 17 pending claimant review (end of Sept.)
- Post decree assistance continues until all final decrees are issued.

Water Rights Information System (WRIS)

Data Inputs Interface Documents, Data, Files Reports   Public Access

Forms, supporting documents, and customer contacts

Data entry & interface (WRIS Interface)

Historic Records (Iron Mountain)

Scanned Documents

Water Rights Database (The Database)

Reports Pulled using WRIS Interface (e.g., abstracts)

Water Rights Notification Tool (WRNT)

Water Rights Query System (WRQS)