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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Internal Correspondence

Division of Water Rights

To: Water Rights Division Staff

From: Kent L. Jones, P.E.
State Engineer
Director – Utah Division of Water Rights

Date: December 28, 2018

Subject: **POLICY FOR DOMESTIC DUTY CONSIDERATIONS**

Since the early 1980's, the State Engineer has recognized and used inside domestic use duties based on 400 gallons/connection/day which is about 0.45 acre-foot/connection/year. With continuing conservation efforts, studies have shown that 70 gallons per person per day may be a more reasonable estimate for indoor domestic use in Utah. With an estimated 3.6 people per connection, that would equal about 250 gallons/connection/day or about 0.28 acre-foot/year, on average, for a fulltime, year-round residence. Part-time recreational usage may only require 0.16 acre-foot/connection/year or less based on those numbers.

Using the study amounts of 70 gallons/connection/day, 0.45 acre-foot would supply the annual inside domestic needs of 5.7 people. While some homes exceed that number, on the average there are less people per connection than 5.7.

In practice, 0.45 acre-foot/connection is a safe number to use covering most household usage per connection. That amount of water may not be needed to meet the projected needs of the residential users in any particular situation. It is a number we will continue to use if there is no evidence that it should be different.

The State Engineer will consider reduced amounts of water required per connection in applications filed if the projected usage rate numbers are based on scientific evaluations and the water used is measured and reported to the Division of Water Rights through the Water Use Program. Proof and Certificate documents would be based on actual measurements of water substantiating the volumes of water diverted and depleted.

