

How do they get away with it?



How to Calculate Water Takings Data A Toolkit

Introduction¹

The bottled water industry is fighting back against the rapidly spreading global bottled water backlash. Over the past four years, a popular movement to challenge the bottled water industry has emerged with schools and universities, restaurants, hospitals, faith-based organizations, unions, municipalities and individuals choosing to shun bottle water because of its environmental and social impacts.

In response to the backlash, one of the most popular tactics used by the industry is to cover up these impacts with corporate social responsibility campaigns. This practice is otherwise known as 'greenwashing', or 'bluewashing'.

A major focus by bottled water companies when covering up the negative impacts of producing and distributing bottled water is to downplay the quantity of water taken out of the ground to manufacture these products. Tactics such as producing [glossy](#)

[sustainability reports](#)², or questionable announcements about returning every drop of water used in global operations to the watershed, are commonly employed by large bottled water multinationals to cover up the impact of water takings.

In some cases, companies publish data about their global water use in annual environmental reports. On their own, these figures are often difficult to comprehend and, importantly, impossible to verify.

Prepared By the Polaris Institute, January 2009



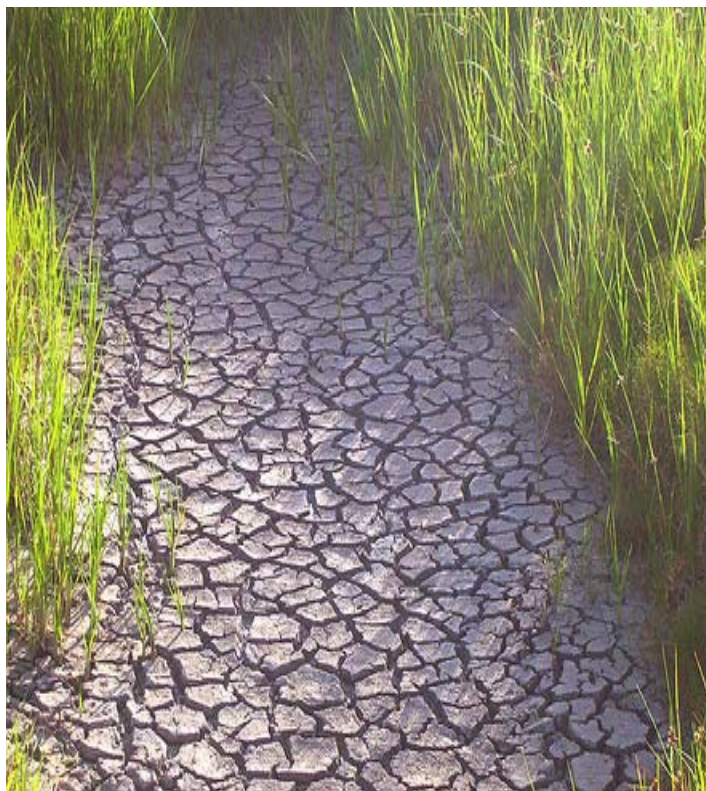
¹Cover photo copyright by Valerie Vickland 2008, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/25555363@N08/>

² http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/citizenship/accountability_reporting.html

Detailed water takings data on a plant by plant basis is never provided. This leaves concerned activists and neighbouring residents in the dark about the real volume of water being used by bottled water companies where production facilities are located.

A problem for the public is how to verify these claims. People concerned with the veracity of the industry's claims have very few opportunities to hold bottled water companies accountable. Life would be simple if people could calculate water takings data with the information provided by the company. However, in the absence of such a calculator, activists and people concerned about bottling operations located close to where they live must take on this research themselves.

This toolkit is designed to give people the capacity to conduct their own water takings research and discover how the bottled water industry gets away with taking large



amounts of water from groundwater and municipal water sources. The toolkit will help develop skills that can be used to calculate water takings data which can then be compared to industry claims on volume.

By following the steps laid out in this toolkit, people will gain the knowledge of how to identify corporate

'greenwashing' and how to investigate water bottling operations and the government regulations that allow these companies to take water from a variety of sources.

Four key questions on calculating water takings:

To help people begin the process of calculating water takings, here are a few critical questions about where and how to look for information. These questions cover corporate water takings from various sources in Canada and the United States.

1. How do I find out about water takings laws and regulations where I live?

What laws and regulations apply to water takings in your community?

The best place to start this search is to contact the government department in your State or Province that regulates water takings (A comprehensive list of State and Provincial government agencies that regulate water takings in North America is available at the [end](#) of this document)

Contact the department and ask for a detailed explanation of water taking legislation. If you are researching a specific water bottling plant, ask somebody in the department to provide you with information on this operation.

If information is not forthcoming try these tactics: start a letter writing campaign; or circulate a petition demanding water takings information.

If permits are required, can you find out how much the permits cost, how long they are valid and how are they enforced?

Using the list of government agencies in charge of regulating water takings, contact the department, or search the website to find out the permit process. This information is important for determining the amount of money bottled water corporations are charged to acquire the permit, the length of time the permit is valid and how the agencies enforce the legislation.

2. How do I verify the quantity of water taken by a specific water bottling operation?

If permits are required, have the water takers met the regulations fully?

- Contact the regulatory body to find out what is required for water users to comply with water taking legislation and regulations laid out in the permitting process.
- Contact the bottled water company directly and ask them if they have fully followed the processes and regulations.
- If information is not forthcoming file a freedom of information request (FOI) or access to information request (ATI) asking for information on your specific case. Information on filing FOIs and ATIs can be found on page 5.

Example: If a hydrogeological study of the aquifer is



required to assess the environmental impact of water takings before a water taking permit is granted, it will be important to verify if this study has actually taken place, which firm did the study and what if any role the company may have had. It is important to examine the reliability of these types of assessments. There are cases of bottled water companies

manipulating hydrogeological studies in order to be granted permits to take water.³

If well registration or a permit to take water is required, how can I verify the amount of water extracted from specific wells?

In some States and Provinces individuals and companies taking greater than a set amount (i.e., 50,000 gallons/day, or 190,000 litres/day) of water from a well are required to register that well with State or Provincial authorities. If you are concerned about a commercial well in your area, contact your State or Provincial water regulators to gain access to the well registry. If you are trying to figure out the flow rate of the well and the registry does not include up to date information, you may need to file an Access to Information request.

What if my local water bottling plant is not taking water from a site on or near the bottling plant, and does not have a well or permit to take water registered in its name?

Another confusing aspect of this type of research is that in some cases bottled water companies purchase their water from bulk water suppliers.

By choosing this option instead of drilling wells the bottled water company is not required to apply for a permit and does not have to access water on or near its production facility. What usually occurs is that the company purchases a fleet of water tanker trucks or hires contract water tankers to ship water to its production facilities.

In this case it is the bulk water supplier that is required to register its well (if the well capacity is over a certain amount) or arrange for a water taking permit. To monitor bulk water suppliers, go to the previous section on verifying the amount of water extracted from specific wells.

Water takings calculations case study

In October 2007, a privately owned Canadian bottled water company, Ice River Springs, announced plans to build a 273,000 square foot water bottling plant in Claremont, New Hampshire. The company announced

³ See Polaris' [Ice River Springs](#) corporate profile for more information, page 14, section on Ontario

that 75% of the water for production would come from a source in Vermont, and the rest from Claremont's municipal water supply.

A group of New Hampshire and Vermont based activists and residents concerned with the plan undertook a detailed investigation into what source in Vermont the company would use for water takings.

To do this, individuals discovered through permit applications from the company and public meetings the name of the source in Vermont. It was discovered that Ice River Springs would be purchasing water in bulk from a supplier in Eastern Vermont. The water would then be trucked to the plant in New Hampshire.

Along with this discovery came troubling stories about the amount of water the bulk water company was taking, and the lack of oversight by State regulators. These stories only surfaced after activists approached neighbouring residents about the operation. Since nobody (neighbours, government officials, etc.) knew how much water was being taken by the bulk water company, the activists began counting water trucks leaving the well site. Trucks were followed to determine clients. Activists contacted State officials about the operation to ascertain more data and information.

What was discovered was a serious deficiency in the State of Vermont's regulation of this bulk water operation. This discovery spurred a campaign which pressured the State of Vermont to investigate this specific operation.

This example shows how grassroots research by concerned residents and activists can yield important information about water takings for bottled water production. For more general information on this case please visit the Polaris Institute [website](http://www.polaris.org)⁴.

3. If none of the regular channels – State/Provincial agency – yields any information, what should I do?

A number of alternative tactics can be employed to discover the volume of water taken from a particular bottled water or bulk water operation.

- Counting water tanker trucks leaving the well site is a very simple and accurate way of monitoring water takings.
 - Find out the volume of the tanker trucks being used. Count trucks for a specific period of time and then calculate the daily average volume of water leaving the well site.
 - If you are monitoring a bottling facility, try to find out the number of cases of bottled water on each truck. Once you have this information, follow the same process as with the tanker trucks.
 - Follow the tanker truck to its destination. If the final destination is a water bottling plant, investigate the name of the company.

- Ask neighbouring residents about the well site's history, and the history of companies who have purchased water from the well site.
- Look into municipal zoning and deed history to gather information on the bottling operation and/or well site.
- Look through local media archives at the local public library using specific keywords (company names, owner names, locations) for references to the specific site of interest.
- Contact the bulk water company and ask to see water taking, flow rate, volume data from their well meters. This can be done in a variety of ways:
 - Create a petition and present the petition to the water takers demanding water taking data.
 - Directly contact the water taker as a concerned individual, and/or involve your local elected representatives.

4. How do I find out water taking data for bottled water companies using a municipal water source?

Close to 40% of the bottled water sold in the United States (25% in Canada) comes from a municipal water source. Water for these products is literally taken from the same source as local residents. Coca Cola and PepsiCo use exclusively municipal water for all of their beverage products, including bottled water.



The bottling company pays the municipality a rate for the water it uses in its production process. Any water use data coming from Coca Cola and PepsiCo bottlers

⁴ <http://www.polaris.org/files/Nov2007newsbytes.pdf>

will cover all beverages produced at the facility as well as water used during the production process.

Municipalities and their large volume water customers do not publicly post data regarding water takings. The two biggest bottlers of municipal water, Coca Cola and PepsiCo, do however boast about their water conservation efforts. The data presented by the companies covers global operations and is very difficult to verify. Pressuring the company and the municipalities to release operating facility-based data is therefore important for the calculation of water takings.

I live near a Coca Cola bottling plant, how can I monitor their water takings?

To find water taking data for bottlers using municipal sources here are some strategies to consider: filing access to information requests with the municipality; directly petitioning the company; and lobbying city councillors to demand the data as part of a public right to know agenda.

- **Access to Information:** Access to Information requests or freedom of information, requests can be a very affective tool for uncovering information about municipal water takings. Steps to follow when filing a request:
 - Find out the name of the bottling company using the municipal source. Coca Cola, PepsiCo, Cadbury/Schweppes and Nestlé Waters (only a small percentage of Nestlé's US bottled water production uses municipal sources) all use municipal water sources. Coca Cola and PepsiCo have similar bottling systems where they contract bottling companies to produce their products under strict bottling agreements. If you are investigating either a Coca Cola or PepsiCo bottling plant you will need to confirm the complete name of the bottling company.
 - Figure out what type of data/information you want to discover. A good start would be to ask for annual volume of water taken by the water taker from the municipal source, and the rate paid for this water. Remember, the more detailed information requested, the more costly it will be to obtain.

- Investigate which municipal department deals with water fees. A good start would be to check your water bill. Find out to whom you pay your water fee and contact them. It will most likely be the municipality's finance department. The corporate division within this department deals with large water users.
- Once you have decided on the type of data you want and where this data is being held, you can now proceed with an FOI. The process for filing FOI's will be different depending on where you live.
- For US residents a great resource on FOIs is the National Freedom of Information Coalition (NFIC) [website](http://www.nfoic.org/)⁵. This site will give you direct links to [state FOI laws](http://www.nfoic.org/foi-center/state-foi-laws.html)⁶ as well as provide you with [letter templates](http://www.nfoic.org/foi-center/sample-letters.html)⁷. If you have questions about your specific FOI request directly [contact the NFIC](http://www.nfoic.org/about/contact.html)⁸.
- For information on how to file FOIs in Canada please see links to Provincial FOI information at the end of this document.

- **Pressuring the company:** Directly pressure the bottling company to disclose water taking data. This can be done through letter writing campaigns, fax jams, signing petitions, or attending the company's annual meeting of shareholders.
 - A letter writing campaign can be effective if a large number of letters are sent to the local bottling plant and the headquarters of the bottling company.
 - Fax or email flooding – sending multiple faxes or emails to the same number or email address simultaneously – can have an impact by disrupting daily operations at the bottling facility. Find the bottling plant's fax number or email address and then arrange to have a preferably large group of people send messages to the company at the same time. The message should call for full disclosure of water takings data.

⁵ <http://www.nfoic.org/>

⁶ <http://www.nfoic.org/foi-center/state-foi-laws.html>

⁷ <http://www.nfoic.org/foi-center/sample-letters.html>

⁸ <http://www.nfoic.org/about/contact.html>

- Petitions are also effective, especially when large numbers of people sign on. Find a sample on-line water takings petition [here](#)⁹.
- **Lobbying City Council:** Finding support from elected officials could help yield water takings data.
 - Contact the elected officials in your municipality and find out if they are sympathetic to your attempts to finding municipal water takings data for bottling operations.
 - If you find support from one or various officials, begin the process of educating the elected officials and their staff to the issue.
 - Allies on city councils or regional boards, or whatever elected body governing in your municipality, can be very useful for uncovering information. Once an elected official is behind the cause, it can become a political issue.

HOW TO FIND INFORMATION ABOUT GREENWASHING?



As was mentioned in the introduction, bottled water companies are sophisticated at reframing the environmental and social impacts of their operations through greenwashing.

This section will help you find out how much water the companies claim to be taking.

⁹ <http://www.insidethebottle.org/pepsico-water-taking-petition>

How do I find water takings data published by the corporation I am investigating?

While some of this is covered in the first section, here we will explore how to uncover what the companies say they are doing.

Investigate company websites and sustainability claims

All of the largest multinational beverage companies are making a concerted effort to appear socially and environmentally conscious. They do this in a variety of ways:

- **Strategic donations to environmental groups.** These partnerships are always enthusiastically publicized by the companies with the goal of convincing the public that they are ‘doing the right’ thing for the environment. To investigate what your local bottler is doing or has done in this regard, go to the company website, find out where they might be making strategic donations.
- **Sustainability reports are produced annually by the beverage multinationals.** Regardless of documented environmental and social impacts, the companies invariably paint themselves as socially and environmentally responsible. Some companies, like Coca-Cola, include global water takings data in their annual sustainability reports. The data provided in these reports is a company estimate and is nearly impossible to verify.

Examples of greenwashing by the Coca-Cola Company:

Pledge to Reduce, Return, Replenish?

- In June 2007, former CEO Neville Isdell announced that Coke would: i) pledge to reduce its water use; ii) return the water it uses for operations to local watersheds; iii) and to replenish every drop the company uses in the production of its products
- While Coke’s ambitious pledge yielded positive media coverage for the company, the pledges are highly ambitious and almost impossible for the general public to monitor.
- The only statistics available for the company and its bottlers’ global operations are provided by Coke itself.

CEO Water Mandate

- In July 2007, Coke CEO Neville Isdell, along with six other chief executives signed the UN Global Compact’s CEO Water Mandate.
- The stated purpose of the CEO Water Mandate is to make progress toward protecting water resources. In reality it is a thinly veiled public relations effort by for-profit corporations to gain greater control over water resources and services around the world.

- This is a prime example of corporate ‘greenwashing’ and the U.N. should not be giving it credibility and support.

Coke releases its annual environmental report

- In July 2007, the company released its glossy annual environmental report.
- The report is packed with information and statistics that minimize the company’s global environmental footprint. All of the data is provided by the company itself.
- The company is portrayed as a steward of the environment and says nothing about the negative impacts of operations.
- The report’s findings are verified by a third party hired by the company, however, only 6 of Coke’s approximately 800 production sites worldwide were visited by the consultants.

How do I find out if my local bottling company employs paid lobbyists?

If you have a medium to large sized bottled water company in your area, discovering that they have hired lobbyists will be important in order to call out their attempts to influence legislation.

Bottled water companies employ lobbyists to pressure regulators to adopt policies that will be favourable to the company. The big-four global bottled water companies – Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Danone and Nestlé – all employ paid lobbyists to push for more relaxed recycling laws, favourable taxation and corporate friendly water takings laws. In some cases smaller bottled water companies – like Canada’s Ice River Springs – also employ lobbyists.

Investigating lobbying activities

The Government of Canada has a public registry for all registered lobbyists in the country. They have a searchable database that you can access [here](https://orl-bdl.gc.ca/app/secure/ec/lrrs/displaySearchReg.do;jsessionid=0000WjE808KrrEdDTNV_DgxNNvv:12edujrta?lang=eng)¹⁰. Search this database for keywords related to the bottled water company in your area.

If you live in the United States and are curious about a local or multinational bottled water company’s political contributions, you can search the website [follow the money](http://www.followthemoney.org/index.phtml)¹¹ for this type of data. The best way to search this data base is to go directly to the

¹⁰ https://orl-bdl.gc.ca/app/secure/ec/lrrs/displaySearchReg.do;jsessionid=0000WjE808KrrEdDTNV_DgxNNvv:12edujrta?lang=eng

¹¹ <http://www.followthemoney.org/index.phtml>

[advanced search](http://www.followthemoney.org/database/advancedsearch.phtml)¹² page and type in the name of the bottled water company. You can choose your State or search all 50 States at once.

For information on bottled water companies lobbying federal politicians in the United States, data can be obtained from the Center for Responsive Politics website [OpenSecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)¹³.

If they can lobby, why can’t you?

If you are involved in a local struggle over water takings, much can be done by simply networking with local municipal, provincial, state and federal politicians. Meet with your local representative and explain to them your concerns, this is what corporations do. If you are having a difficult time getting information about local water takings out of Provincial or State bureaucrats, your elected officials might be able to help you. You are their constituents, and they have taken a pledge to represent you.

Or even better, find like-minded concerned community members and establish a group to lobby your political representatives.

Conclusion

This toolkit provides a comprehensive set of actions and ideas for calculating water takings data. By using these tools people will gain the capacity to conduct in-depth research into corporate water takings and discover how the bottled water industry gets away with taking large amounts of water from a wide variety of sources.

In addition, knowledge of how to identify corporate ‘greenwashing’ and the government regulations that allow companies to take water will be indispensable in the fight to keep water out of the hands of for-profit corporations.

In the absence of mechanisms to verify corporate water takings, a tool like this is essential. Time after time concerned activists and neighbouring residents from India to Michigan, whose lives and livelihoods have been impacted by corporate water takings, have

¹²

<http://www.followthemoney.org/database/advancedsearch.phtml>

¹³ <http://www.opensecrets.org/index.php>

had to gather intelligence about who is taking their water and how much.

This toolkit makes it possible for people to take this research into their own hands and uncover how corporations get away with water takings for profit.

Who regulates water takings?

In Canada and the United States, groundwater takings are regulated by Provincial and State governments.

Below is a list of government bodies in each US State and Canadian Province that regulate water takings. If you have questions about water takings laws or about specific water bottling operations in your area, contact these departments with your questions.

In most cases, water taking permitting, pricing and regulations are complicated. An effective way of gaining information about legislation or specific operations is to contact provincial or state employees working on these issues.

The links provided here should point you in the right direction. Once you have arrived at the website link for your State or Province, use the contact pages to find somebody within that department to answer your questions.

Canada:

Alberta: Ministry of the Environment, [Regulatory Approvals Centre](#) -
<http://alberta.ca/home/includes/directorysearch/goaBrowse.cfm?txtSearch=Environment&Ministry=ENV&levelID=52409>

British Columbia: Ministry of the Environment, [Water Stewardship Division](#) -
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/index.html>

Manitoba: [Manitoba Water Stewardship](#) -
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/index.html>

New Brunswick: [Ministry of the Environment](#) -
<http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0003-e.asp>

Newfoundland and Labrador: Ministry of Environment and Conservation, [Water Resources Management Division](#) -
http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/Env/water_resources.asp

Northwest Territories: [Environment and Natural Resources](#) - <http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/>

Nova Scotia: [Nova Scotia Environment](#) -
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/>

Nunavut: [Department of Environment](#) -
<http://www.gov.nu.ca/env/>

Ontario: [Ministry of the Environment](#) -
<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/pttw.htm>

Prince Edward Island: [Ministry of Environment, Energy and Forestry](#) - <http://www.gov.pe.ca/enveng/wm-info/index.php3>

Quebec: [Development Durable, Environment et Parcs](#) -
http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/eau/inter_en.htm

Saskatchewan: [Saskatchewan Watershed Authority](#) -
<http://www.swa.ca/>

Yukon: [Environment Yukon](#) -
<http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/monitoringenvironment/about/waterresources.php>

United States:

Alabama: Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, [Office of Water Resources](#) -
<http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/Office%20of%20Water%20Resources/default.aspx>

Alaska: [Alaska Department of Natural Resources](#) -
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/>

Arizona: [Arizona Department of Water Resources](#) -
<http://www.azwater.gov/dwr/>

Arkansas: [Arkansas Natural Resources Commission](#) -
<http://www.anrc.arkansas.gov/index.html>

California: [Department of Water Resources](#) more details on California's diverse water regulatory system can be found [here](#) - <http://www.water.ca.gov/>
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=wat&codebody=&hits=20>

Colorado: [Colorado Division of Water Resources](#) -
<http://water.state.co.us/>

Connecticut: [Department of Environmental Protection](#)
http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=325520&depNav_GID=1654&depNav=

Delaware: Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, [Division of Water Resources](#) -
<http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/water2000/>

Florida: Department of Environmental Protection, [Spotlight on Water Resources](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/) -
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/>

Georgia: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, [Environmental Protection Division](http://www.georgiaepd.org/) -
<http://www.georgiaepd.org/>

Hawaii: Department of Land and Natural Resources, [Commission on Water Resource Management](http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/cwrm/aboutus.htm) -
<http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/cwrm/aboutus.htm>

Idaho: [Department of Water Resources](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/) -
<http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/>

Illinois: Department of Natural Resources, [Office of Water Resources](http://dnr.state.il.us/owr/resman/index.htm) - <http://dnr.state.il.us/owr/resman/index.htm>

Indiana: [Natural Resources Commission](http://www.in.gov/nrc/) -
<http://www.in.gov/nrc/>

Iowa: [Department of Natural Resources](http://www.iowadnr.com/water/index.html) -
<http://www.iowadnr.com/water/index.html>

Kansas: Department of Agriculture, [Department of Water Resources](http://www.ksda.gov/dwr/) - <http://www.ksda.gov/dwr/>

Kentucky: [Kentucky Division of Water](http://www.water.ky.gov/) -
<http://www.water.ky.gov/>

Louisiana: Louisiana Office of Conservations, [Ground Water Resources Program](http://dnr.louisiana.gov/cons/gwater/gwrdr-index.htm) -
<http://dnr.louisiana.gov/cons/gwater/gwrdr-index.htm>

Maine: [Bureau of Land and Water Quality](http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/stand.htm) -
<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/stand.htm>

Maryland: [Department of the Environment](http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/waterPrograms/index.asp) -
<http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/waterPrograms/index.asp>

Massachusetts: [Department of Environmental Protection](http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/index.htm) - <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/index.htm>

Michigan: [Department of Natural Resources](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) -
<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>

Minnesota: [Department of Natural Resources](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/water/index.html) -
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/water/index.html>

Mississippi: [Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality](http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/page/Main_Home?OpenDocument) -
http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/page/Main_Home?OpenDocument

Missouri: [Missouri Department of Natural Resources](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/index.html)
- <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/index.html>

Montana: [Montana Department of Natural Resources](http://dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/default.asp)
- <http://dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/default.asp>

Nebraska: [Nebraska Department of Natural Resources](http://dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/default.asp) - <http://dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/default.asp>

Nevada: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, [Division of Water Resources](http://water.nv.gov/) -
<http://water.nv.gov/>

New Hampshire: [Department of Environmental Services](http://www.des.state.nh.us/water_intro.htm) - http://www.des.state.nh.us/water_intro.htm

New Jersey: Department of Environmental Protection, [Division of Water Supply](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/) -
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/>

New Mexico: [New Mexico Office of the State Engineer](http://www.ose.state.nm.us/conservation_index.html) - http://www.ose.state.nm.us/conservation_index.html

New York: [Department of Environmental Conservation](http://www.dec.ny.gov/61.html) - <http://www.dec.ny.gov/61.html>

North Carolina: [North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources](http://www.enr.state.nc.us/) -
<http://www.enr.state.nc.us/>

North Dakota: [State Water Commission](http://www.swc.state.nd.us/4dlink9/4dcgi/redirect/index.html) -
<http://www.swc.state.nd.us/4dlink9/4dcgi/redirect/index.html>

Ohio: [Ohio Department of Natural Resources](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/water/tabid/3252/Default.aspx) -
<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/water/tabid/3252/Default.aspx>

Oklahoma: [Oklahoma Water Resources Board](http://www.owrb.ok.gov/) -
<http://www.owrb.ok.gov/>

Oregon: [Water Resources Department](http://www.wrd.state.or.us/) -
<http://www.wrd.state.or.us/>

Pennsylvania: Department of Environmental Protection, [Bureau of Watershed Management](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/watershedmgmt/cwp/view.asp?a=1425&q=482310&watershedmgmtNav=|) -
<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/watershedmgmt/cwp/view.asp?a=1425&q=482310&watershedmgmtNav=|>

Rhode Island: Department of Environmental Management, [Office of Water Resources](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/index.htm) -
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/index.htm>

South Carolina: [Department of Health and Environmental Control](http://www.scdhec.net/environment/water/) -
<http://www.scdhec.net/environment/water/>

South Dakota: [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](http://www.state.sd.us/denr/denr.html) - <http://www.state.sd.us/denr/denr.html>

Tennessee: Department of Environment and Conservation, [Division of Water Supply](http://www.state.tn.us/environment/dws/) - <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/dws/>

Texas: Commission on Environmental Quality, [Groundwater Conservation Districts](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/groundwater/districts.html) - http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/groundwater/districts.html

Utah: Department of Natural Resources, [Division of Water Rights](http://www.waterrights.utah.gov/) - <http://www.waterrights.utah.gov/>

Vermont: [Department of Environmental Conservation](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/dec.htm) - <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/dec.htm>

Virginia: [Department of Environmental Quality](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/) - <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/>

Washington: [Department of Ecology](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/) - <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/>

West Virginia: [Department of Environmental Protection](http://www.wvdep.org/item.cfm?ssid=11) - <http://www.wvdep.org/item.cfm?ssid=11>

Wisconsin: Department of Natural Resources, [Groundwater Advisory Committee](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gac/index.htm) - <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gac/index.htm>

Wyoming: [State Engineer's Office](http://seo.state.wy.us/) - <http://seo.state.wy.us/>

Environmental law organizations

Canada

[Canadian Environmental Law Association](http://www.cela.ca/) - <http://www.cela.ca/>

[Environmental Law Centre - Alberta](https://www.elc.ab.ca/home/index.cfm) -

<https://www.elc.ab.ca/home/index.cfm>
[Ecojustice Canada](http://www.ecojustice.ca/) (formerly Sierra Legal Defence Fund) - <http://www.ecojustice.ca/>

[Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy](http://www.cielap.org/) - <http://www.cielap.org/>

[Canadian Institute of Resource Law](http://www.ucalgary.ca/%7Ecirl/) - <http://www.ucalgary.ca/%7Ecirl/>

[Environmental Bureau of Investigation](http://www.e-b-i.net/ebi/index.cfm?DSP=subcontent&AreaID=117) - <http://www.e-b-i.net/ebi/index.cfm?DSP=subcontent&AreaID=117>

[West Coast Environmental Law](http://www.wcel.org/) - <http://www.wcel.org/>

[Environmental Defence](http://www.environmentaldefence.ca) - <http://www.environmentaldefence.ca>

US

[EarthJustice](http://www.earthjustice.org/) (Formerly Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund) - <http://www.earthjustice.org/>
[Center for International Environmental Law](http://www.ciel.org/) (CIEL) - <http://www.ciel.org/>
[Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center](http://law.lclark.edu/org/peac/) (PEAC) - <http://law.lclark.edu/org/peac/>

Links to Provincial FOI information

Canadian FOIs please follow these links: Federal Privacy Commissioner:
http://www.privcom.gc.ca/atip/manual_chap1_e.asp

Provincial Privacy Commissioners:

British Columbia

[http://www.oipcbc.org/legislation/FIPPA/Freedom_of_Information_and_Protection_of_Privacy_Act\(May_2008\).htm#section5](http://www.oipcbc.org/legislation/FIPPA/Freedom_of_Information_and_Protection_of_Privacy_Act(May_2008).htm#section5)

Alberta

<http://www.oipc.ab.ca/foip/DetailsPage.cfm?id=94>

Saskatchewan

<http://www.oipc.sk.ca/webdocs/Publicstepstoaccesshandout.pdf>

Manitoba

http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/fippa/public_portal_home.html

Ontario <http://www.ipc.on.ca/?navid=4>

Quebec <http://www.cai.gouv.qc.ca/>

New Brunswick

<http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/Pub/EServices/ListServiceDetails.asp?ServiceID1=547&ReportType1=All>

Nova Scotia

http://www.ednet.ns.ca/index.php?&t=sub_pages&cat=256

Prince Edward Island <http://www.gov.pe.ca/foipp/>

Newfoundland and Labrador

<http://www.oipc.gov.nl.ca/>