

# 2009 South Carolina Water Use

Alexander P. Butler

SC DHEC Bureau of Water

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is committed to the responsible management of South Carolina's water resources by encouraging continued conservation and reasonable use to ensure a sustainable supply for present and future demands. The South Carolina *Surface Water Withdrawal and Reporting Act*, §49-4-10 et. seq., and the South Carolina *Groundwater Use and Reporting Act*, §49-5-10 et. seq., require water users that withdraw three (3) million gallons or greater in any month to register with and report that use annually to the Water Use Program at DHEC.

Water Use data is used by the State of South Carolina to better define the distribution and demand for our surface and groundwater resources across the state. Data from the Water Use Program at DHEC is shared between other local, state, and federal regulatory and scientific agencies to establish a common understanding of the demands placed upon our water resources. This common database has proven critical in water management decisions and water use conflict resolution.

Statistics utilized represent data obtained from users registered with the Water Use Program. Consumptive use from private domestic wells, small surface water irrigation intakes, facilities that do not meet the reporting threshold, or data from facilities failing to report their annual water use are not included in this annual summary. The purpose of the annual *South Carolina Water Use Report* is to summarize present reported water use in South Carolina by county and use category during calendar year 2009. The Department maintains and continually updates the water use and facility databases utilized in this report. Water use data were collected by annual reporting of water use by registered users, as required and mandated by state law, and are reported in millions of gallons unless stated otherwise.

Total water use reported for 2009 was more than 16.01 trillion gallons from 2638 sources at 871 reporting facilities. Surface water use accounted for approximately 15.93 trillion gallons, approximately 99.5% of total water use. Groundwater withdrawal accounted for approximately 72.99 billion gallons or approximately 0.5%.

Additional information on the Water Use and Capacity Use Programs at SC DHEC can be found at [www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/capuse.htm](http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/capuse.htm)

Water Use Category	Surface Water	Groundwater	Total	Percentage
Aquaculture	80,243	229.9	310,143	0.002%
Golf Course	9,257,479	3,144,013	12,401,492	0.077%
Industrial	120,271,624	8,048,285	128,319,909	0.801%
Irrigation	11,673,031	18,113,856	29,786,887	0.186%
Mining	247.3	2,840.98	3,088.28	0.019%
Other	2.41	59.725	62.135	0.000%
Hydroelectric Power	12,446,338.701	0.411	12,446,339.112	77.740%
Nuclear Power	2,843,982.488	368.153	2,844,350.641	17.766%
Thermoelectric Power	327,168.231	1,463.42	328,631.651	2.053%
Water Supply	178,209.93	38,721.667	216,931.597	1.355%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,937,231.437 (99.6%)</b>	<b>72,990.41 (0.4%)</b>	<b>16,010,221.847</b>	<b>100.000%</b>

