Groundwater Use in South Carolina

Overview

Total
Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline) ............................................. 365
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state .......................... 5.92%

Public Supply
Groundwater (mgd) ........................................................................ 115
Percentage of total groundwater................................................... 31.5%
Percentage of total public supply ............................................... 18.2%

Individual Household
Groundwater (mgd) ........................................................................ 118
Percentage of total groundwater................................................... 32.3%
Percentage of total individual household supply ......................... 100%

Irrigation
Groundwater (mgd) ........................................................................ 87.9
Percentage of total groundwater................................................... 24.1%
Percentage of total irrigation....................................................... 69.8%

Livestock/Aquaculture
Groundwater (mgd) ........................................................................ 4.97
Percentage of total groundwater................................................... 1.36%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture ................................. 30.01%

Industrial, Self-Supplied
Groundwater (mgd) ........................................................................ 26.3
Percentage of total groundwater................................................... 7.21%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied ............................ 9.20%

Mining
Groundwater (mgd) ........................................................................ 8.28
Percentage of total groundwater................................................... 2.27%
Percentage of total mining......................................................... 82.0%

Thermoelectric
Groundwater (mgd) ........................................................................ 4.52
Percentage of total groundwater................................................... 1.24%
Percentage of total thermoelectric............................................. 0.09%

(*mgd = million gallons per day)

Groundwater’s Role in South Carolina’s Economic Vitality

- Approximately 134,000 known residential wells statewide.2
- 354 community water systems use groundwater for 528,200 people3
- 94 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 26,300 people4
- 550 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 36,500 people5
- 1,820 irrigation wells used serving 759 farms and 102,000 acres6

2 South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.
South Carolina’s Groundwater Industry Employment

Men and women working to provide and protect South Carolina’s groundwater resources for the benefit of people, business, and our environment.

South Carolina’s Contracting Employment
Drill and service water wells, install and service pumps, install and service point of use water treatment devices. This portion of the industry is characterized by small firms, many of which are multi-generation family-owned and operated.7

- 74 firms employ an estimated 258 people
- Annual estimated sales of $52.6 million

South Carolina’s Scientists and Engineers Employment
Geologists, hydrogeologists, engineers, geochemists, geophysicists, microbiologists, regulators.

Environmental Consulting8
NAICS 54162: Establishments primarily engaged in providing advice and assistance on environmental issues, such as the control of environmental contamination from pollutants, toxic substances, and hazardous materials.

- 316 firms employ an estimated 1,052 people
- Annual estimated sales of $194.5 million

Remediation9
NAICS 56291: Establishments include those engaged in remediation and cleanup of contaminated buildings, mine sites, soil, or groundwater.

- 88 firms employ an estimated 697 people
- Annual estimated sales of $178.7 million

Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers
- Many more dedicated individuals

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7InfoUSA, SIC 1781, June 2019.