

2023 Kansas Statutes

82a-706b. Diversion of water prohibited, when; unlawful acts; enforcement and augmentation by chief engineer. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to prevent, by diversion or otherwise, any waters of this state from moving to a person having a prior right to use the same, or for any person without an agreement with the state of Kansas to divert or take any water that has been released from storage under authority of water reservation rights held by the state of Kansas. Upon making a determination of an unlawful diversion, the chief engineer or the chief engineer's authorized agents, shall, as may be necessary to secure water to the person having the prior right to its use, or to secure water for the purpose for which it was released from storage under authority of the state of Kansas or water reservation rights held by the state of Kansas:

(1) Direct that the headgates, valves or other controlling works of any ditch, canal, conduit, pipe, well or structure be opened, closed, adjusted or regulated; or

(2) within the rattlesnake creek subbasin located in hydrologic unit code 11030009, allow augmentation for the replacement in time, location and quantity of the unlawful diversion, if such replacement is available and offered voluntarily.

(b) The chief engineer, or the chief engineer's authorized agents, shall deliver a copy of such a directive to the persons involved either personally or by mail or by attaching a copy to such headgates, valves or other controlling works to which it applies and such directive shall be legal notice to all persons involved in the diversion and distribution of the water of the ditch, canal, conduit, pipe, well or structure. For the purpose of making investigations of diversions and delivering directives as provided herein and determining compliance therewith, the chief engineer or the chief engineer's authorized agents shall have the right of access and entry upon private property.

History: L. 1957, ch. 539, § 10; L. 1965, ch. 557, § 1; L. 2015, ch. 60, § 1; July 1.