South Carolina Water-Demand Projections

October 21^{st}, 2021

C. Alex Pellett

pellettc@dnr.sc.gov
Projections are not forecasts

**Forecast**
- Educated guess.
- Based on expected conditions and actions.
- Timeframe limited by predictability of future conditions.
- Aim to be accurate.

**Projection**
- Extrapolation of trend.
- Based on hypothetical scenarios.
- Timeframe can extend beyond the limits of effective forecasting.
- Aim to be informative.
Stakeholder Input throughout the Process

Study Proposal

Stakeholder Group Meetings

Review of Literature

Technical Advisory Conference Calls

Draft Method Report

Comment Period

Methods Report

Draft Water-Use Projection Reports

Registered & Permitted User Comments

Draft Water-Use Maps

Baseline Calibration & Default Projections

RBC Scenario Development

Planning Scenario Projections
Development of the methods

2016 - 2017 - meetings with stakeholder interest groups for input on water-demand projection methods and data sources.

- SCAWWA Water Utility Council
- SC Water Quality Association
- SC Farm Bureau Water Committee
- Chamber of Commerce Environmental Technical Committee
- SC Water Planning Process Advisory Committee (PPAC)
Stakeholder Feedback

- **Water Works Association, Utility Council**
  - Use weather and demographic variables for long term forecasts.
  - Consider impacts of outdoor use restrictions.

- **Chamber of Commerce, Environmental Committee**
  - Provide information on a reach scale for real-world application.
  - Guarantee privacy of survey responses.

- **Farm Bureau, Water Committee**
  - Agricultural return flows can be significant.
  - Not all cropland can be profitably irrigated.
  - Vegetables and hemp production could increase.

- **Water Quality Association**
  - Some systems are highly interconnected.
  - Inflow and Infiltration can be significant.
Development of the methods

2018 - technical advisory conference calls with representation from a variety of fields of experience.

- Public water supply (17)
- Thermo-electric power (5)
- Manufacturing (5)
- Government (22)
- Consultants (4)
- Legal (2)
- Golf (2)
- Agriculture (5)
- Environment (4)
- Research & education (11)
TAC feedback

• General recommendations:
  • provide draft projections to local stakeholders.
  • provide an opportunity for feedback.
  • do not rely on overly complex methods.

• Sector specific recommendations:
  • **Thermo-electric**: Contact the utilities directly
  • **Public supply**: Do not rely on complex statistical methods which may underestimate demand.
  • **Industry**: Use economic output, not employment as the driver variable.
  • **Agricultural Irrigation**: A more technical method may be appropriate for projecting irrigated acreage.
  • **Golf**: A simpler projection method was recommended due to the relatively low volume of water use.
Development of the methods

2018 – Publication of “Water Users’ Perspectives: Summary of Withdrawal Survey Responses and Commentary” in *Journal of South Carolina Water Resources*.

2019 – Projection Methods for Off-stream Water Demand in South Carolina published online by SCDNR following reviews by an editorial board, the PPAC, and technical advisory conference call participants.

Pellett, C. Alex (2020) "Mapping Center Pivot Irrigation Fields in South Carolina with Google Earth Engine and the National Agricultural Imagery Program," *Journal of South Carolina Water Resources: Vol. 7 : Iss. 1 , Article 4*. Available at: [https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/jscwr/vol7/iss1/4](https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/jscwr/vol7/iss1/4)
**Equation 1: Water Demand Mass Balance**

\[
\text{Demand} = \text{Withdrawal} + \text{Purchase} + \text{Reuse} - \text{Sales} - \text{Loss} - \Delta \text{Storage} + \text{Shortage}
\]

Where:

- **Demand**: Off-stream water demand
- **Withdrawal**: Total water withdrawal from source water bodies
- **Purchase**: Total purchases of water from distributors
- **Reuse**: Total reuse of water previously used for another purpose
- **Sales**: Total wholesale transfers of water to another user or distributor
- **Loss**: Total losses of water preventing it from being put to use
- **\(\Delta \text{Storage}\)**: Net change in off-stream storage
- **Shortage**: Water not available to meet the objectives of water users

**Equation 2: Return Flow Mass Balance**

\[
\text{Return Flow} = \text{Discharge} - \text{Inflow & Infiltration}
\]

Where:

- **Return Flow**: Water returned to the environment after non-consummptive uses
- **Discharge**: Concentrated discharges to surface water bodies (NPDES data)
- **Inflow & Infiltration**: Waste-water resulting from inflow and infiltration (I/I)
Permitted and registered water withdrawals over 3 million gallons / month should be reported to SCDHEC.

Water that is used and evaporates or transpires to the atmosphere is consumed from the water use system.

The monthly volumes of water lost to the environment before use and changes in off-stream storage are generally assumed to be zero.

Wastewater discharges are reported under the national NPDES regulations.

Consumption, return flow, and inflow & infiltration are estimated over the baseline period to project future non-consumptive use.
Water Use

*Volume in a specific month, applied to a specific kind of use, associated with a specific driver value, under specific weather conditions.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Primary driver</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thermo-electric power</td>
<td>Electricity production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public and domestic supply</td>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>Economic production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and Golf Courses</td>
<td>Irrigated acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Population projections 2013 to 2070

- Aiken
- Bamberg
- Barnwell
- Berkeley
- Calhoun
- Charleston
- Colleton
- Dorchester
- Edgefield
- Lexington
- Orangeburg
- Saluda

Legend:
- SCORFA projection
- extended business-as-usual
- high growth
Table B3. Projected Growth Rates for Manufacturing Sectors in South Carolina

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturing Sectors</th>
<th>Projected Annual Growth Rate 2017-2050</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper Products</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Products</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Manufacturing</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk Chemicals</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inorganic</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resin</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastics and Rubber Products</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Chemical Products</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Petroleum and Coal Products</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textile Mills and Products</td>
<td>-2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Metals Industry</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron and Steel Mills and Products</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumina and Aluminum Products</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Primary Metal Products</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabricated Metal Products</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cement and Lime</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Products</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Manufacturing</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration
[https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/aec/data/browser/#](https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/aec/data/browser/#)
Accessed Aug 7, 2018
Projection of Irrigated Area

Moderate Demand
Increase irrigated area by 38% from 2020 - 2070

Annual Growth Rate ~0.65%

High Demand
Increase irrigated area by 44% from 2020 – 2070

Annual Growth Rate ~0.73%

Add 90th Percentile Weather Impact
Harvested Cropland in Selected Counties

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture
**Equation 3 – General Model of Water Demand**

\[
Demand_{u,t} = \frac{Driver_{u,t} \times Rate_k \times Seasonality_{k,m} \times Weather_{u,t}}{Efficiency_u}
\]

Where:
- \(Demand_u\): Modeled water demand for use \(u\), expressed in terms of volume per month.
- \(Driver_u\): Primary driver value for use \(u\), units vary by category.
- \(Rate_k\): Median rate for kind \(k\) of water demand, expressed per unit of primary driver.
- \(Seasonality_{k,m}\): Median seasonality coefficient for kind \(k\) and calendar month \(m\), unitless.
- \(Efficiency_u\): Average efficiency coefficient for use \(u\), unitless.
- \(Weather_{u,t}\): Weather coefficient for use \(u\) at time \(t\), unitless.

**Equation 4 – Simplified Model of Water Demand**

\[
Demand_{u,t} = Driver_{u,t} \times Rate_u \times Seasonality_{u,m} + Deviation_{u,t}
\]

Where:
- \(Demand_u\): Modeled water demand for use \(u\), expressed in terms of volume per month.
- \(Driver_u\): Primary driver value for use \(u\), units vary by category.
- \(Rate_u\): Median rate for kind \(k\) of water demand, expressed per unit of primary driver.
- \(Seasonality_{u,m}\): Median seasonality coefficient for kind \(k\) and calendar month \(m\), unitless.
- \(Deviation_{u,t}\): Deviation for use \(u\) at time \(t\), volume per month.
Business-as-usual Projections

- Water demand models derived from 2012-2017 input data will be applied to projected datasets including population, employment, and irrigated acres.
- ‘Business as Usual’ projections will assume stable linear trends in dynamic factors, and no change in underlying relationships.
- **High-demand scenario assumes high growth and drought impacts.**

Business-as-usual & High-demand projections will be presented to basin specific stakeholder groups.
Some Draft Results...

• Preliminary draft results, not yet vetted
• For demonstration purposes only
• Only includes surface water
• Comparison of maximum monthly withdrawal rates
• There will be modifications to the projections during the water planning process.
Questions?

pellettc@dnr.sc.gov