


ADJUDICATION MEMORANDUM # 26

TO: Adjudication Bureau Staff

FROM: Don Shaff, Adjudication Bureau Chief 

SUBJECT: Data entry trail for splitting or combining existing water rights

REVISED: April 13, 2009

The process of splitting or combining existing water rights in adjudication claims taking requires a clearly stated policy with which all staff are familiar. The following procedure must be followed whenever a claim splits or combines existing water right(s).

The claim should reference the number of the parent, or base, right(s). When a claim is for a portion of a pre-existing right, it might not be possible to identify the specific portion of a decreed or licensed right being claimed, but every effort should be made to maintain data integrity.

Splitting an existing water right (multiple claimants each claiming a previously recorded water right or a portion thereof):

1. Determine the parent (base) water right number from the claim or water right database.
2. If not already completed, create an adjudication claim record for the parent (base) water right number.
3. Follow the instructions in Workflow to split the parent (base) water right. Workflow will automatically update the pedigree in this process and add the appropriate conditions listing parent and new water right numbers.

Combining two or more water rights (same priority date and delivery through the same diversion system are required; or if priority dates are different, the claimant is willing to take the most junior of all priorities by combining rights with different priorities):

1. Determine the parent water right numbers from the claim or water right database.
2. If not already completed, create adjudication claim records for the parent water right numbers.
3. Renumber one of the parent water rights to create the new claim number representing the combination of the parent water rights. DO NOT use one of the original numbers for the combined right. Note: This is different from the Water Allocations process.
4. Set the status of the subsequent parent claims to "Parent." The status of the first claim will automatically set to "Parent."

5. Update the pedigree to reflect the combination. This can be counterintuitive to those more familiar with splitting rights than combining them and those attempting it for the first time should see their supervisor.
6. Update the conditions in each parent right to reflect they have been combined into a new water right number. The condition should list the old and new water right numbers. (The reference to the original right can aid in claim analysis during review and recommendation, for example, in determining if the right was overclaimed or underclaimed. After partial decree, this information is beneficial in determining which rights were not claimed but should have been, and which rights have been superseded by partial decrees.)
7. Update the conditions in the child right to reflect its combination of parent rights. The condition should list the old and new water right numbers.