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- To qualify for the exemption specified in subsection (3) of this section, all municipalities of the first class and/or and larger shall file with the department and natural resources district a conservation plan as presently required by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-5304(e). Municipalities smaller than cities of the first class shall not be required to submit a plan to be exempt from water use limitations.
- After January 1, 2026, the base amount for an annual allocation to a municipality shall be determined as the greater of either (1) the amount of water authorized by a permit issued pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 46-638 et seq.; or (2) the existing commercial and industrial uses as of January 1, 2026 plus the per capita allowance specified in subsection (B) of this section. Each municipality may be subject to controls adopted pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 46-715 for amounts in excess of the allocations specified herein.
- (4) Unless established by a natural resources district prior to the effective date of this provision, no integrated management plan, rule or order shall limit the use of ground water by a non-municipal commercial or industrial water user within an area designated by the department as fully- or over-appropriated, until January 1, 2026 except as specified in this section.
 - (A) Prior to January 1, 2026, the minimum annual allocation for a non-municipal commercial or industrial user shall be the greater of either: (1) the amount specified in a permit issued pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 46-675 et seq.; or (2) the amount necessary to achieve the commercial or industrial use provided it is results in a consumptive use that is less than 25,000 gallons annually. Any increases in the consumptive use of water greater than 25,000 gallons annually by a new or expanded non-municipal commercial or industrial user within a fully- or over-appropriated area that result in a decrease in streamflow shall be subject to the controls and/or incentive programs adopted pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 46-715.
 - (B) After January 1, 2026, the base amount for an annual allocation to a non-municipal commercial or industrial user within a fully- or over-appropriated area shall be the amount specified in (A) of this subsection.

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