

July
2011

Volume 33,
No. 3



EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

GROUNDWATER NEWS

2011 DROUGHT OPTIONS FOR WATER USERS

TOPEKA — Water users in drought areas of Kansas have been concerned with potential relief from the drought, which has resulted in many irrigators having insufficient remaining allocation to complete irrigation of their crops. To cease pumping when the maximum authorized quantity is reached could result in a greatly reduced yield, a waste of the water that was already pumped and a waste of the energy that it took to pump the water.

The Division of Water Resources (DWR) has created options for water users needing additional pumping authorization, which are summarized below. These options are intended to prevent crop failure while insuring the additional pumping will not worsen aquifer declines. While these alternatives are designed principally for irrigation, other uses of water can apply for use of these programs.

EMERGENCY DROUGHT TERM PERMIT

- Available to water right holders in drought disaster declaration areas as requested by the Governor and designated by USDA. Harvey, Reno and Sedgwick counties are included in the drought area and are eligible. At the time of this writing, McPherson County is not currently within the drought area and so is not eligible. However, the state has requested that McPherson County be added to the drought area list and action on this request is expected shortly. If so, it would become eligible for the drought term permits and DWR's website will be updated to reflect this.
- Allows the authorized annual quantity to be exceeded for 2011 only. Does not allow the authorized annual quantity to be exceeded in 2012.
- A two-year (2011-2012) term permit is issued for the sum of the 2011 and 2012 authorized annual quantities. The existing water right is suspended for 2011-2012.
- Water pumped in excess of the authorized annual quantity in 2011 is subtracted from the authorized annual quantity for 2012.
- Water rights currently under enforcement sanctions (i.e., non-compliance for over-pumping in a previous year resulting in a water reduction for 2011) are not eligible.
- The McPherson IGUCA limits new temporary permits to one year. Thus an amendment to the IGUCA order by the Chief Engineer would be required. If McPherson County is added to the drought declaration and there is sufficient interest in drought permits within the IGUCA, the Chief Engineer has indicated his willingness to amend the order.
- Exceeding the term permit authorized quantity may result in civil enforcement action for the existing water right.
- Term permit applications must be filed by December 31, 2011. To avoid possible non-compliance issues, the term permit application should be filed prior to exceeding the authorized quantity of the existing permit or water right.
- The application fee is based on the total term permit quantity requested for 2011-2012, usually around \$300.00.

EXAMPLE:

- Water Right No. XXXXX is authorized for 200 ac-ft/yr.
- The two-year term permit is computed as: 200 ac-ft X 2 = 400 ac-ft.
- The water right owner signs up by December 31, 2011.
- Water Right No. XXXXX is suspended for 2011-2012.
- For the year 2011, 400 ac-ft can be pumped.
- If 300 ac-ft is pumped in 2011, the 2012 authorized quantity is 100 ac-ft (200 ac-ft - 100 ac-ft = 100 ac-ft).
- If less than 200 ac-ft is pumped in 2011, the 2012 quantity is 200 ac-ft. Pumping less than the normal authorized quantity (200 ac-ft) in 2011 does not allow any carry-over in 2012.

MULTI-YEAR FLEX ACCOUNT PERMITS

Five-Year Allocation—Term Permit: \$400 Filing Fee

- Allows the authorized annual quantity to be exceeded, provided the 5-year allocation is not exceeded.
- The 5-year allocation is computed by multiplying the average reported water use (NOT permitted amount) for the years 2000-2009 by 5, less a 10% conservation factor. In lieu of using the 2000-2009 average reported water use, DWR may consider any 5-year period prior to 1987 for the 5-year allocation calculation.
- Allows for current year sign-up (i.e., a water right holder can apply for the flex account permit this year to finish irrigating the 2011 crop). The existing water right is suspended during the 5-year period.
- Exceeding the 5-year allocation results in a 2-year suspension of the water right.
- It is a statewide program, available in an IGUCA, and approval would not be inconsistent with the IGUCA provisions.

EXAMPLE:

- Water Right No. XXXXX is authorized for 200 ac-ft/yr.
- The average reported use for 2000-2009 is 150 ac-ft.
- The 5-yr allocation is computed as: 150 ac-ft X 5 = 750 ac-ft., 750 ac-ft - 75 ac-ft (10%) = 675 ac-ft.
- The water right owner signs up in 2011. The existing Water Right is suspended 2011-2015.
- For the years 2011-2015, a total of 675 ac-ft can be pumped.
- The authorized annual quantity of 200 ac-ft/yr can be exceeded in any year during the 5-yr period.
- Once the total pumped equals 675 ac-ft, no more water can be pumped until 2016.

Water users can also access the Kansas Geological Survey's WIMAS website to find their authorized annual quantity. The link is on our website (www.gmd2.org) on our "Links" page.

Additional information regarding the 2011 drought options for irrigation can be obtained by contacting the District office, the DWR Stafford Field Office at (620) 234-5311, or by visiting DWR's website at: <http://www.ksda.gov/appropriation/content/114/cid/1787>.



EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

**Please contact us
with any address
changes!**

FY 2012 BUDGET SET

HALSTEAD — At the June 14th budget meeting, the Equus Beds Board of Directors adopted, by resolution, a budget totaling \$395,526 for the next fiscal year, beginning January 1, 2012. The approved expenditures are a 3% increase compared to the current FY 2011 budget.

The total value for land and water assessments, based on 2010 values, was \$294,483. Other revenue sources totaled \$29,000 and included reimbursements, grants, and interest. Projected fund balance on December 31, 2012, totaled \$191,788.

The adopted rates to fund the FY 2012 budget are \$0.05 per acre for land, and \$0.75 per acre-foot for water, which remains the same as the current budget. The land assessment rate is at the maximum limit set by law, and the water assessment charge is below the maximum limit of \$1.00 per acre-foot.

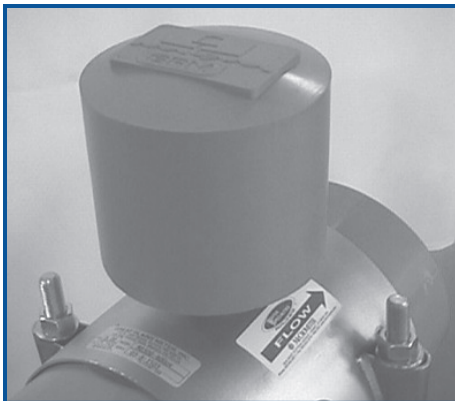
At the adopted assessment rates, a quarter section of land (160 acres) will be assessed \$8.00; and 100 acre-feet of water will be assessed \$75, or \$0.00230 per 1,000 gallons.

CHIEF ENGINEER INITIATES IGUCA REVIEW

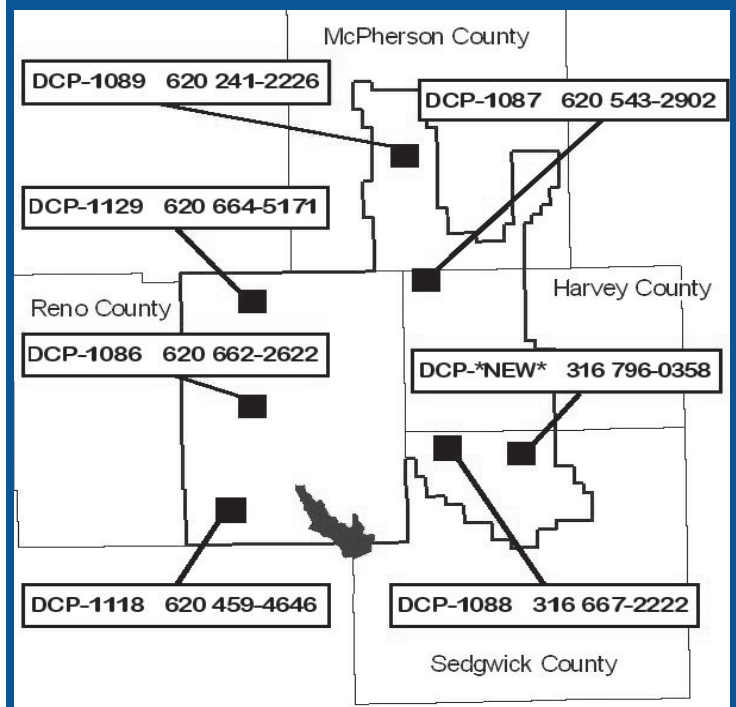
TOPEKA — On July 18, Chief Engineer David Barfield issued letters formally initiating review of two intensive groundwater use control areas (IGUCAs): the McPherson IGUCA and the Burrton IGUCA. Both of these IGUCAs are located within the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2 in south-central Kansas. The District has expressed support for reviewing these IGUCAs and will be an active participant in the process.

PROTECT YOUR WATER METERS FROM DAMAGE

McCrometer water meters can be protected by installing a protective cover over the meter register canopy. The cover protects the register canopy from water and sunlight damage. The cover can be purchased at the District office for \$20.00.



**Need to know the current rainfall, ET, soil temperature, groundwater level, and current atmospheric conditions in the Equus Beds?
Simply call the nearest data station.**



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The Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2 publishes the *Equus Beds Groundwater News* quarterly. Subscriptions are free of charge.

**Address corrections are appreciated
and help to reduce publication costs.**

Mail, fax or e-mail corrections to the District office at: 313 Spruce Street, Halstead, KS 67056-1924 • Phone: 316-835-2224 • Fax: 316-835-2225 • E-mail: equusbeds@gmd2.org • website: www.gmd2.org

Office hours are 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except for holidays.

The Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of each month. All meetings are open to the public. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings.