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No. 2



EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2

GROUNDWATER NEWS

EVIDENTIARY HEARING OF THE CITY OF WICHITA AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY (ASR) PERMIT MODIFICATION PROPOSAL

The Evidentiary Hearing of the City of Wichita Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Permit Modification Proposal will be held on December 10, 11, and 12, 2019, at the First Mennonite Church of Halstead, 427 W. 4th Street, Halstead, Kansas, 67056. The hearing will begin at 9:00 a.m. each day and end no later than 5:00 p.m. each day. There will be a separate time designated for the presiding officer to receive oral and/or written public comments. The public comment portion of this hearing process will be held on December 13, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the same location. Written comments will be accepted until the record is closed, which will occur at midnight on Friday, January 17, 2020, unless extended by further order. Written comments may be submitted any of the following ways: (1) by submitting them to Division of Water Resources (DWR) staff during the formal phase of the hearing; (2) by submitting them to DWR staff or the presiding officer during the public comment phase of the hearing; (3) by mailing a copy to Ronda Hutton, Kansas Department of Agriculture, 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, KS 66502, Attn: Wichita ASR Project Testimony; or (4) by sending an electronic copy via email to ronda.hutton@ks.gov. Formal parties to the hearing are the City of Wichita, GMD2, DWR, and a group of landowners and water right owners called Intervenors.

The City of Wichita is requesting two fundamental changes to the ASR Phase II project and water permit approvals:

- * Lowering of the minimum index levels that are used to determine when the City can withdraw its recharge credits. The Basing Storage Area (BSA) where the City can inject treated source water from the Little Arkansas River into the aquifer to develop recharge credits and later withdraw the recharge credits is divided into 38 Index Cells and is defined by horizontal and vertical boundaries. Currently, the City is not allowed to withdraw recharge credits when the water-level is below the defined bottom of the BSA, which is based on the January 1993 water-levels when the aquifer was at its historically lowest water levels in the BSA. The City is requesting that the bottom of the BSA be lowered between approximately 9 to 23 feet depending on Index Cell, thereby allowing the City to withdraw recharge credits at lower groundwater levels.
- * Authorization for a new type of recharge credit: Aquifer Maintenance Credits (AMCs). The City is requesting that under certain conditions they be allowed to accumulate recharge credits without physically injecting source water from the Little Arkansas River into the aquifer. AMCs would be allowed to be accumulated during times of limited aquifer recharge capacity, whereas the City would receive recharge credits for treating surface water diverted from the Little Arkansas River and sent directly to the City for municipal use.

More information on the proposed changes is available online at DWR's ASR webpage: <http://www.agriculture.ks.gov/WichitaASR>, or by contacting the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District.

GMD2 OPPOSES CITY OF WICHITA AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY (ASR) PERMIT MODIFICATION PROPOSAL

Following an extensive review of the City of Wichita ASR Permit Modification Proposal by the GMD2 District staff and consultants, the GMD2 Board of Directors approved a motion at the February 19, 2019, Special Meeting to oppose the proposal. In addition to an Expert Report authorized by GMD2 Manager Tim Boese, the District Board also reviewed three other Expert Reports by consultants retained by GMD2: Former Chief Engineer David L. Pope, P.E., with Pope Consulting, LLC; Dave M. Romero, P.H., with Balleau Groundwater, Inc.; and Masih Akhbari, PhD, P.E. Expert Reports are available online at DWR's ASR webpage: <http://www.agriculture.ks.gov/WichitaASR>.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

WATER USE REPORTS

Due to DWR by March 1, 2020

These reports are required by the Division of Water

GMD2 ANNUAL MEETING

Date To Be Determined
Halstead High School
Halstead, KS

VERIFIED CLAIMS

Due to GMD2 by April 1, 2020

These forms are voluntary by GMD2 and are not required

**EQUUS BEDS GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2**

313 Spruce Street
Halstead, KS 67056-1925
Phone: 316-835-2224
Fax: 316-835-2225
Email: equusbeds@gmd2.org
Website: www.gmd2.org

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

EQUUS BEDS GMD2 REVISED BUDGET HEARING

On December 18, 2019, at 10:30 a.m., in the conference room of the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2, 313 Spruce Street, Halstead, Harvey County, Kansas, the GMD2 Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing, pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1030(b), for the purpose of hearing comments from District assessment payers, eligible voters, and interested persons relating to amending the adopted 2019 fiscal budget to include non budgeted expenses and revenue. The public is invited to attend. Detailed budget information is available at the District office and will be available at this hearing.

2019 WATER USE REPORTS

Annual Water Use Reports are due to the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources (DWR) by March 1, 2020. Water Use Reporting forms will be mailed from DWR on regular 8.5" x 11" paper instead of the usual card stock that was previously used. Submitting the report in paper form will require a \$20 per water right paper filing fee. The \$20 fee can be avoided by reporting water use online. For assistance completing your 2019 Water Use Report online, please contact the DWR Stafford field office at 620-234-5311.

2019 VERIFIED CLAIM FORMS - AVAILABLE JAN. 2, 2020

A water user pumping less water in 2019 than the permitted amount may file a verified claim with the District to limit their annual groundwater assessment to the actual amount used instead of the full permitted amount. Filing the claim is voluntary. The deadline for filing the verified claims forms is April 1, 2020. No late forms will be accepted.

By law, the District determines the water assessment charge by the amount of water authorized by the water permit unless a verified claim is filed demonstrating actual usage.

Verified claims may be filed if the water well is equipped with a water meter for all of 2019; the metered amount is in units of either gallons, acre-feet, acre-inches, or barrels; the water meter installed on the well is registered with the District; and the water meter is in compliance with State regulations. Verified claims may also be submitted for:

- Wells which were not drilled and completed under the original water permit approval;
- Water permits whose place of use is enrolled in the USDA Conservation Reserve Program;
- Water permits enrolled in the DWR Water Right Conservation Program.

The color-coded forms will be available at the District office, at the offices of the county clerks and of the treasurer of Harvey, McPherson, Reno and Sedgwick counties, and at the county conservation district offices.

Forms are required to have both front and back printed. Photocopies will not be accepted.

BOARD OFFICERS

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Tom Adrian Attorney

DISTRICT STAFF

Tim Boese Manager
Rebecca Wilson Admin. Asst.
..... Hydrogeologist
David Randolph Technician

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

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

CORRECTIONS

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

• Website: www.gmd2.org

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