

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Proposed Additions and Changes to
Rules and Regulations
Temporary Suspension of the Drilling of New Water Wells
and
Water Use Measuring Devices for Water Wells

The Board of Directors of the Lower Republican Natural Resources District ("Board") will hold a public hearing at 7:30 P.M., on June 10, 2004 at the Harlan County Courthouse Meeting Room, 706 2nd Street, Alma, Nebraska. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony relevant to the adoption of proposed rules and regulations. A summary of the proposed rules and regulations are as follows:

Section 5. of the Lower Republican Natural Resources District Rules and Regulations ("LRNRD Rules") will be amended to say effective June 11, 2004 there is a temporary suspension of the drilling of new wells within the entire Lower Republican NRD, without exception of any areas within the District.

Copies of the full text of the proposed rules may be obtained at or by contacting the Lower Republican NRD Office at 706 2nd St., P.O. Box 618, Alma, NE, 68920-0618, phone: (308) 928-2182. All persons are encouraged to attend the hearing and offer testimony. Written testimony may be presented at the hearing or may be delivered or mailed to the Lower Republican NRD. If mailed or delivered, such testimony must be received no later than 5:00 P.M. on June 9, 2004.

Individuals with disabilities may request auxiliary aids and services necessary for participation by contacting the Lower Republican NRD Office at least two days in advance of the hearing, at the address and phone number listed above.

Lower Republican Natural Resources District

Amendment to Rules and Regulations

Section 1. Authority

(No changes)

Section 2. Definitions

(No changes)

Section 3.0. Meter Program Responsibilities

(No changes)

Section 3.1. Meter Program Completion Schedule

(No changes)

Section 3.2. Meter Specifications, Sealing, Installation and Removal

(No changes)

Section 3.3. Operational Accuracy

(No changes)

Section 3.4. District Flow Meter Inspection/Flow Rate Evaluations

(No changes)

Section 3.5. Notice of Replacement

(No changes)

Section 3.6. Accessibility

(No changes)

Section 3.7. Annual Meter Reporting

(No changes)

Section 4. Variances For Well Meters

(No changes)

Section 5. Temporary Suspension of Drilling New Wells

In July of 1996, the Board requested the Nebraska Department of Water Resources to conduct studies and hold a hearing on the preparation of a joint action plan for the integrated management of hydrologically connected groundwater and surface water. In June of 1999, the Board requested the Nebraska Department of Water Resources to suspend the studies and process begun in 1996. In October of 2002, the Board requested the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (the successor agency to the Nebraska Department of Water Resources) to resume the studies and process begun in 1996.

Effective December 9, 2002, a temporary suspension was implemented concerning the drilling of new wells within the entire Lower Republican NRD, except for those areas lying east of a line proceeding north from the Nebraska-Kansas state line and following the western edge of Webster County, Township 1, Range 9, Sections 34, 27, 22, 15, 10, 3, through Webster County, Township 2, Range 9, Sections 34, 27, 22; then proceeding west along the southern edge of Webster County, Township 2, Range 9, Sections 16, 17, 18; then proceeding north following the western edge of Webster County, Township 2, Range 9, Sections 18, 7, 6, through Webster County, Township 3, Range 9, Sections 31, 30, 19, 18, 7, 6 to its intersection with the northern boundary of Webster County.

Effective June 11, 2004, there is a temporary suspension of the drilling of new wells within the entire Lower Republican NRD, without exception of any areas within the District.

Wells not subject to the temporary suspension of drilling shall include (1) test holes; (2) Dewatering wells with an intended use of less than ninety days; (3) Water wells designed and constructed to pump fifty gpm or less; and (4) Water wells to be used as replacement wells. The temporary suspension of drilling shall remain in effect until November 30, 2005 unless rescinded.

Section 6. Variances for Drilling New Wells

(No changes)

Section 7. Ground Water Use Reports

(No changes)

Section 8. Enforcement of Rules

(No changes)

Section 9. Permit to Construct a Well

(No changes)

Section 10. Effective Date

These rules and regulations shall be effective along with all other previously adopted rules not herein repealed, on June 10, 2004 and shall remain in full force and effect until repealed, amended or superceded.