

Nemaha NRD Board Approves New Regulations on Wells

(KTNC) - After months of discussion, the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors has approved changes to the District's groundwater regulations.

NRD General Manager Bob Hilske says the new rules are more stringent than the old rules and give the Board more authority over whether a well permit is approved. (play audio :28)

The new rules also require flow meters on all new and replacement high capacity wells, and creates a new ranking system for new high capacity well permits. Under the ranking system, Hilske says, a score of 201 is the cut-off point, with any well scoring below that unlikely to be approved. (play audio :23)

Hilske says there are parts of the NRD where it will be difficult to meet the threshold to have a new well approved. (play audio :35)

Hilske says the new rules are meant to prevent over-development of the aquifer. (play audio :27)

The new rules take effect officially on May 9th. In addition to approving the new regulations, the NRD Board also lifted a stay on construction of new high capacity wells, also as of May 9th. The stay was put in place in January. The NRD has begun to accept well permit applications, but they will not consider approving the permits until the May 9th Board meeting.

The full text of the regulations are available by contacting the Nemaha NRD office in Tecumseh.