

Nemaha NRD Board Considers Revised Water Reg's

(KTNC) -- The Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors overhauled the District's groundwater regulations about one year ago. The board is now discussing potential revisions to those rules.

NRD General Manager Bob Hilske says it's they want to address questions that have come up since the new rules were approved. He says the board wants to evaluate the rules to ensure the system they're using for permitting wells is adequate for the future.

Hilske says they try to review the groundwater rules occasionally and look for areas where they may need to be clarified.

He says the rules that were approved last year for approving well permit applications have generally been well received.

Some of the areas Hilske says that may be clarified include better defining when an application should be scored - when it's received or when it's approved - and how to deal with well permits received in the same month that are too close to one another. He says the rules also don't clearly define how to consider how to handle a situation where a permitted well is not drilled and another application is received for a well in the same location.

NRD staff will collect comments from board members and work to prioritize possible changes before the May board meeting. Any changes would require a public hearing before they take effect. The NRD Board approved eight well permits this month. Four of the new wells are in Nemaha County, two are in Johnson County, and one each are in Richardson and Gage Counties.

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