

# NEW Papio-Missouri River NRD Groundwater Management Plan

## Frequently Asked Questions

### WHY REVISE THE EXISTING PLAN?

The purpose of the Groundwater Management Plan is to use the best available information to enhance the understanding of the sources and quality of groundwater, and then utilize that knowledge to protect the sustainability and integrity of groundwater for future generations.

The current Papio-Missouri River NRD (P-MRNRD) Groundwater Management Plan, last revised in 1994, acknowledged a lack of existing information about groundwater quantity and quality. Incorporating more recent data, the new plan has been prepared with the input of stakeholders from across the District who rely on groundwater. The NEW plan is expected to completely replace the existing plan.

### WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED?

The P-MRNRD has the obligation to declare certain areas Groundwater Management Areas to improve groundwater quality or quantity. Minimum rules and regulations are recommended in the NEW plan for Groundwater Management Areas that encompass the entire P-MRNRD. These minimum rules and regulations include:

- 1) No nitrogen fertilizer application in the Platte and Elkhorn River Valley until after March 1<sup>st</sup> and no fall fertilizer applications until after November 1<sup>st</sup> in all other areas of the District.
- 2) Require well permits from the P-MRNRD prior to the construction of all new wells capable of pumping over 50 gpm.
- 3) Minimum well spacing of 600 ft between any water supply well, including domestic wells.

### WHO WOULD BE AFFECTED?

- 1) Well drillers who work within the P-MRNRD will have to apply for and receive a permit prior to installing a well that pumps over 50 gpm and comply with well spacing requirements.
- 2) Agricultural crop producers throughout the P-MRNRD will have to follow the minimum nitrogen fertilizer application dates.
- 3) Communities within the P-MRNRD that supply their own municipal water will need to work with the District to enhance protections for their Wellhead Protection Area.
- 4) Homeowners with their own domestic well will be encouraged to test their drinking water at least once every four years.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Improved management as a result of the NEW plan is intended to help protect the drinking water supplies of over 750,000 people in our District who receive their water from a community or rural water system. The plan is also focused on enhancing the monitoring, identification, and response to groundwater quality issues that may impact the estimated 21,000 people who get their water from private domestic wells. The availability of groundwater supplies will be monitored and better managed to allow for future uses without jeopardizing long-term sustainability.

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### WHEN AND WHERE ARE THE PUBLIC HEARINGS?

Three public hearings are tentatively planned across the District to gather feedback on the NEW plan, proposed rules and regulations and designation of Groundwater Management Areas.

- 1) November 30, 2017 @ 6:30 p.m. – Dakota City Field Office, 1505 Broadway, Dakota City, NE
- 2) December 7, 2017 @ 6:30 p.m. – First Northeast Bank of Nebraska, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 448 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Tekamah, NE
- 3) December 14, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m. – Natural Resources Center, 8901 S. 154<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE

### WHAT PORTIONS OF THE P-MRNRD MAY BE DESIGNATED A GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA?

The entire P-MRNRD would be designated as a Level I Groundwater Quantity Management Area and Phase I Groundwater Quality Management Area. Subareas with elevated groundwater nitrate levels around Tekamah and south of Springfield would be Phase II Groundwater Quality Management Areas.

VIEW THE NEW PLAN AND RULES AND REGULATIONS ONLINE

<http://bit.ly/GMPplan>

