

**From:** Gary Stecklein [<mailto:gary.stecklein@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 07, 2019 7:41 AM

**To:** Hutton, Ronda [KDA] <[Ronda.Hutton@ks.gov](mailto:Ronda.Hutton@ks.gov)>

**Cc:** Citizens for Conservation of the Equus Beds <[cceguusbeds@gmail.com](mailto:cceguusbeds@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Written Testimony regarding Wichita Aquifer Storage and Recovery project proposed changes

To Whom It May Concern,

The City of Wichita's Proposals should be denied because they are not based on sound logic, but rather simple selfish interest.

Lowering the minimum index levels has been rejected twice before by the State Engineer and has the potential to cause significant damage to the quality of the water in the Equus Beds, which might even be irreparable. Before any change to allowable water levels is granted, significant study of the effects should be made using current water usage allowances.

Authorizing a new type of recharge credit is just the City's way of trying to justify the folly of its recharge plan, which was noted to be flawed since conception. Logic dictates that when the Little Arkansas River is high enough to have water withdrawn, the chances are the Equus Beds will also be high so that water transfer is difficult. Similarly when the Equus Beds level is low enough to more easily receive water, the Little Arkansas River will not have sufficient flow to allow water to be withdrawn. Allowing an artificial accounting sidesteps the real issue that any water drawn from the Little Arkansas River and not inserted into the Equus Beds should not be counted as recharged water.

I believe the City of Wichita will be able to obtain a sufficient and reliable water supply from the Equus Beds when the City is willing to pay landowners to reduce irrigation and pay for the water that is removed from the Equus beds. Given that in 2018 approximately 200,000 acre feet of water was withdrawn from the Equus Beds and 3/4 of that went to irrigation, there would seem to be ample water to be purchased by the City of Wichita.

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