

NOTICE OF HEARING

In the Matter of the Designation of the Wichita County Local Enhanced Management Area in Wichita County, Kansas

Pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1041, the Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 (GMD1) has recommended the approval of a Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) Management Plan in a designated area in Wichita County and within the boundaries of GMD1 (WHC LEMA). The WHC LEMA Management Plan was submitted to the Acting Chief Engineer for review and found to be acceptable for consideration.

Therefore, an initial public hearing to determine whether the Management Plan satisfies the three initial requirements for approval set forth in K.S.A. 82a-1041 has been scheduled for August 14, 2020 beginning at 9:00 a.m. (CDT). The virtual-hybrid hearing will provide the opportunity for in-person oral statements at the St. Anthony Catholic Church Parish Hall, 600 S. Fourth Street, in Leoti, Kansas and virtual online participation through Zoom or a similar program. The hearing will also be broadcast live via the Kansas Department of Agriculture's YouTube Channel.

The record established at this initial hearing shall be used to determine (1) whether one or more of the circumstances specified in subsection (a) through (d) of K.S.A. 82a-1036 exist within the proposed boundaries of the Management Plan; (2) whether the public interest of K.S.A. 82a-1020 requires that one or more corrective control provisions be adopted to address those circumstances; and (3) whether the geographic boundaries recommended in the Management Plan are reasonable. The hearing may continue as long as necessary for a full disclosure of relevant facts.

If the Acting Chief Engineer's findings based on the record established at the initial hearing are favorable to the Management Plan on all three issues of fact and an expansion of the geographic boundaries of the Management Plan is not recommended, a subsequent hearing will be held to determine whether the LEMA should be designated and the proposed WHC LEMA Management Plan adopted.

Anyone may submit written or oral statements to be included in the record of the initial hearing. Oral statements will be accepted only at the public hearing. Anyone desiring to participate in the hearing by providing oral statements or by making a visual presentation via Zoom must submit their request at least 24 hours prior to the hearing by notifying Ronda Hutton at (785) 564-6715 or by e-mail at ronda.hutton@ks.gov. A copy of any visual presentation must also be submitted 24 hours in advance of the initial hearing. Written statements may be submitted at the public hearing or sent to the WHC LEMA; c/o Ronda Hutton; 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, Kansas 66502, faxed to (785) 564-6777, or e-mailed to ronda.hutton@ks.gov. Written comments will be accepted if delivered on or before Friday, August 28, 2020. The deadline for any party desiring to formally intervene in the proceeding is July 31, 2020, but electing not to formally intervene by that date will not limit any party's ability to provide testimony at the public hearing.

Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend the initial hearing. A link to the live broadcast of the hearing and a copy of the proposed plan and related documents are available online at: <http://agriculture.ks.gov/whcl>.

Christopher W. Beightel, P.E.
Acting Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources
Kansas Department of Agriculture