

Nemaha NRD Deals with Water Issues

(KTNC)--Water was a hot topic for the Nemaha NRD Board of Directors this month.

The board turned down a request from some residents in the Barada area to place a moratorium on the approval of irrigation wells in that area of northeast Richardson County.

The Barada area residents had requested the moratorium in response to a period this summer when some domestic wells in that part of the county failed and landowners asked the NRD to help determine the cause. The moratorium was to allow for time to study the possible impact on domestic wells.

The board did not approve the request. The board is to vote on proposed changes to the NRD's groundwater management rules in November, and board members felt the revised rules and scoring system would effectively eliminate many high-capacity wells in that area from approval.

The NRD will continue to work with landowners in the Barada area to monitor water levels and to register domestic wells to protect them from encroachment by high-capacity wells.

On another water-related note, the NRD board narrowly defeated a motion to reconsider a previously denied well permit for Harlan Plager in Pawnee County. The motion was defeated in part due to concerns of the Pawnee County Rural Water District about the proximity to their public water supply wells.

The motion, which had been tabled last month, failed on a 9-8-1 vote.

The NRD Board also denied approval of a permit for a well in Richardson County that would have been used to fill a pond.

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