

## Kansas Moratorium Report on Regulation Changes

In November and December 2010, Kansas adopted the following Kansas Administrative Regulation revisions:

None of these appear to impact RRCA, however, here is a list for your review:

- K.A.R. 5-1-4 Water flowmeter specifications.
- K.A.R. 5-1-9 Criteria to determine when a water flowmeter is out of compliance.
- K.A.R. 5-3-23 Maximum reasonable annual quantity approvable for irrigation use for an application for change in place of use and a request to reduce a water right; exceptions.
- K.A.R. 5-4-1 Distribution of water between users when a prior right is being impaired.
- K.A.R. 5-4-1a Distribution of water between users when a prior right is being impaired due to a regional lowering of the water table.
- K.A.R. 5-7-1 Due and sufficient cause for nonuse.
- K.A.R. 5-17-2 Application to deposit a water right into a water bank or withdraw a deposit.

**K.A.R. 5-1-4. Water flowmeter specifications.** (a) Each water flowmeter required by the chief engineer, or required pursuant to a regulation adopted by the chief engineer, on or after the effective date of this regulation shall meet the following minimum requirements:

(1)(A) The water flowmeter has been certified by the manufacturer to register neither less than 98 percent nor more than 102 percent of the actual volume of water passing the water flowmeter when installed according to the manufacturer's instructions. This requirement shall be met throughout the water flowmeter's normal operating range without further adjustment or calibration.

(B) The manufacturer has certified to the chief engineer that it has an effective quality assurance program, including wet testing a random sample of production line water flowmeters with water flowmeter test equipment. The minimum number of samples to be tested shall be determined using a confidence interval of 90 percent, an expected compliance of 95 percent, and an acceptable error of two percent. The minimum number of samples of each model that shall be tested shall be calculated by multiplying 1,300 times the annual production of that model of water flowmeter divided by Q. Q equals four times the annual production of that water flowmeter plus 1,300.

(C) The manufacturer has certified that the water flowmeter test equipment described in paragraph (a)(1)(B) has been tested annually and found accurate by standards traceable to the national institute of standards and technology (NIST). Documentation of the testing required in paragraphs (a)(1)(A) and (B) shall be maintained by the manufacturer for a period of at least five years and shall be made available to the chief engineer upon request during normal business hours.

(2) The water flowmeter shall be designed and constructed so that it will meet the following criteria:

- (A) Maintain the accuracy required by the chief engineer in paragraph (a)(1)(A) through (C) and K.A.R. 5-1-9(a)(1);
- (B) be protected by the following:
  - (i) A seal installed by the manufacturer or an authorized representative of the manufacturer; or
  - (ii) a way that makes it impossible to alter the totalizer reading without breaking the seal or obtaining the authorization of the manufacturer, an authorized representative of the manufacturer, or the chief engineer;
- (C) clearly indicate the direction of water flow;
  
- (D) clearly indicate the serial number of the water flowmeter;
- (E) have a weatherproof register that is sealed from all water sources;
- (F) have a register that is readable at all times, whether the system is operating or not;
- (G) be able to be sealed by an authorized representative of the chief engineer to prevent unauthorized manipulation of, tampering with, or removal of the water flowmeter;
- (H) be equipped with a manufacturer-approved measuring chamber through which all water flows. Except for positive displacement water flowmeters, full-bore electromagnetic water flowmeters, and multijet water flowmeters, flow-straightening vanes shall be installed at the upstream throat of the water flowmeter chamber. The flow-straightening vanes shall meet either of the following criteria:
  - (i) Be designed and installed by the manufacturer, or an authorized representative of the manufacturer; or
  - (ii) consist of at least three vanes that are longer, when placed parallel to the length of the pipe, than the inside diameter of the pipe, are equally spaced radially on the inner periphery of the pipe, and are wider in diametrical distance than one-fourth of the inside diameter of the pipe;
  - (I) be equipped with an inspection port if the straightening vanes are not designed, constructed, and installed by the manufacturer or an authorized representative of the manufacturer. The port shall be of sufficient size and placement to allow determination of the following:
    - (i) The proper installation of the flow-straightening vanes; and
    - (ii) the inside diameter of the pipe in which the water flowmeter sensor is installed;
- (J) remain operable without need for recalibration to maintain accuracy throughout the operating life of the water flowmeter; and
- (K) have a totalizer that meets the following criteria:
  - (i) Is continuously updated to read directly only in acre-feet, acre-inches, or gallons;
  - (ii) has sufficient capacity, without cycling past zero more than once each year, to record the quantity of water diverted in any one calendar year;
  - (iii) reads in units small enough to discriminate the annual water use to within the nearest 0.1 percent of the total annual permitted quantity of water;
  - (iv) has a dial or counter that can be timed with a stopwatch over not more than a 10-minute period to accurately determine the rate of flow under normal operating conditions; and
  - (v) has a nonvolatile memory.
- (3) Each water flowmeter that is required to be installed by the chief engineer, or that was required to be installed as a condition of either an approval of application or an order of the chief engineer, or pursuant to a regulation adopted by the chief engineer before the effective date

of this regulation, shall meet the following minimum specifications:

(A) Each water flowmeter shall be of the proper size, pressure rating, and style, and shall have a normal operating range sufficient to accurately measure the water flow passing the water flowmeter under normal operating conditions.

(B) Each water flowmeter shall meet the accuracy requirements of K.A.R. 5-1-9(a)(1). If the water flowmeter does not meet the accuracy requirements of K.A.R. 5-1-9(a)(1), then the water flowmeter shall meet either of the following criteria:

(i) Be repaired so that it meets the accuracy requirements of K.A.R. 5-1-9(a)(1); or

(ii) be replaced with a water flowmeter meeting all of the requirements of K.A.R. 5-1-4 and installed in a manner that meets the requirements of K.A.R. 5-1-6.

(b) A water flowmeter installed in the diversion works or a distribution system for a water right authorized for municipal use shall not be subject to the requirements of paragraph (a)(2)(B) if an accurate record of water use can be determined by readings from at least one alternate water flowmeter in the same diversion works or distribution system. (Authorized by K.S.A. 82a-706a; implementing K.S.A. 82a-706a and K.S.A. 82a-706c; effective Sept. 22, 2000; amended Oct. 24, 2003; amended May 21, 2010.)

**K.A.R. 5-1-9. Criteria to determine when a water flowmeter is out of compliance.**

(a) A water flowmeter shall be considered to be out of compliance if any of the following criteria is met:

(1) The water flowmeter registers less than 94 percent or more than 106 percent of the actual volume of water passing the water flowmeter. If necessary, this determination may be made by a field test conducted by, or approved by, the chief engineer.

(2) The seal placed on the totalizer by the manufacturer or the manufacturer's authorized representative has been broken, or the totalizer value has been reset or altered without the authorization of the manufacturer, an authorized representative of the manufacturer, or the chief engineer.

(3) A seal placed on the water flowmeter or totalizer by the chief engineer has been broken.

(4) The water flowmeter register is not visible or is unreadable for any reason.

(5) There is not full pipe flow through the water flowmeter.

(6) Flow-straightening vanes have not been properly designed, manufactured, and installed.

(7) The water flowmeter is not calibrated for the nominal size of the pipe in which the flowmeter is installed.

(8) The water flowmeter is not installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation specifications. However, five diameters of straight pipe above the water flowmeter sensor and two diameters below the water flowmeter sensor shall be the minimum spacing, regardless of the manufacturer's installation specifications.

(9) A water flowmeter is installed at a location at which the flowmeter does not measure all of the water diverted from the source of supply.

(b) A water flowmeter installed in the diversion works or a distribution system for a water right authorized for municipal use shall not be subject to the requirements of paragraphs (a)(2) and (3) if an accurate record of water use can be determined by readings from at least one alternate water flowmeter in the same diversion works or distribution system. (Authorized by

K.S.A. 82a-706a; implementing K.S.A. 82a-706a and K.S.A. 82a-706c; effective Sept. 22, 2000; amended Oct. 24, 2003; amended May 21, 2010.)

**K.A.R. 5-3-23. Maximum reasonable annual quantity approvable for irrigation use for an application for change in place of use and a request to reduce a water right; exceptions.**

(a) Except as provided in subsections (c), (d), and (e), for water rights with a priority date before September 22, 2000, the maximum reasonable annual quantity of water that may be approved for either of the following shall be that quantity of water reasonably necessary to irrigate crops in the region of the state where the proposed place of use is located as specified in K.A.R. 5-3-19(a):

(1) An application for change in place of use for irrigation filed pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-708b and amendments thereto; or

(2) a request to reduce the authorized place of use for irrigation for a water right filed pursuant to K.A.R. 5-7-5.

(b) Except as provided in subsections (c), (d), and (e), for water rights with a priority date on or after September 22, 2000, the maximum reasonable annual quantity of water that may be approved for either of the following shall be that quantity of water reasonably necessary to irrigate crops in the region of the state where the proposed place of use is located as specified in K.A.R. 5-3-19(b):

(1) An application for change in place of use for irrigation filed pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-708b and amendments thereto; or

(2) a request to reduce the authorized place of use for a water right filed pursuant to K.A.R. 5-7-5.

(c) The maximum reasonable quantities approvable in subsections (a) and (b) shall not exceed either of the following:

(1) The applicable quantity specified in either subsection (a) or (b); or

(2) the maximum quantity of acre-feet per acre authorized by the vested water right or certificate of appropriation, whichever is greater. The maximum authorized quantity of acrefeet

per acre shall be calculated by dividing the maximum annual quantity of water authorized when the application for change or request to reduce is filed by the number of acres authorized when the application for change is filed.

(d) The quantities specified in subsections (a), (b), and (c) may be exceeded only if the applicant demonstrates to the chief engineer that the requested quantity is reasonable for the intended irrigation use, is not wasteful, and will not otherwise prejudicially and unreasonably affect the public interest and if either of the following conditions is met:

(1) Because of specialty crops or other unusual conditions, the quantity specified in K.A.R. 5-3-19(a) is insufficient.

(2) A request for reduction of the authorized place of use is made for a water right located in both the Rattlesnake Creek Subbasin and the Big Bend Groundwater Management District Number Five to comply with the agriculture water enhancement program and both of the following conditions are met:

(A) The reduction of the authorized place of use will lead to an overall reduction in water use.

(B) The reduction of the authorized place of use pursuant to paragraph (d)(2) requires

the approval of any future reduction or change to a water right so reduced to meet the requirements in subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) of this regulation and in K.A.R. 5-5-11. (e) The maximum annual quantity of water approved pursuant to this regulation shall not exceed the maximum annual quantity of water authorized by the water right when the change application is approved. (Authorized by K.S.A. 82a-706a; implementing K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 82a-707(e) and K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 82a-708b; effective Sept. 22, 2000; amended, T-5-8-16-10, Aug. 16, 2010; amended Nov. 19, 2010.)

**K.A.R. 5-4-1. Distribution of water between users when a prior right is being impaired.**

In responding to a complaint that a prior water right is being impaired, the following procedure shall be followed:

(a) Complaint. The complaint shall be submitted in writing to the chief engineer or that person's authorized representative. The chief engineer shall take no action until the written complaint is submitted and, for non-domestic groundwater rights, the information specified in paragraph (b)(2) is provided.

(b) Investigation. The chief engineer shall investigate the physical conditions involved, according to the water rights involved in the complaint.

(1) If the water right is domestic, the chief engineer may require the complainant to provide a written report similar to that described in paragraph (b)(2).

(2) If the water right claimed to be impaired is not a domestic right and its source of water is groundwater, the complainant shall provide to the chief engineer a written report completed within 180 days preceding the date of the complaint. Within 30 days of the complainant's request, the chief engineer shall provide the complainant with data from the division of water resources that is relevant to preparation of the required report. The complainant's report shall meet the following requirements:

(A) Be prepared by a licensed well driller, a professional engineer, or a licensed geologist;

(B) describe the construction and the components of the well;

(C) provide data to show the extent to which the well has fully penetrated the productive portions of the aquifer with water of acceptable quality for the authorized use; and

(D) provide testing and inspection data to show the extent to which the pump and power unit are in good working condition to make full use of the available aquifer.

(3) In assessing the complainant's written report, the chief engineer may use all relevant data, including historical data from water well completion records, Kansas geological survey bulletins, and other data in the water right files.

(4) If the area of complaint is located within the boundaries of a groundwater management district (GMD), the chief engineer shall notify the GMD of the complaint before initiating the investigation and shall give the board of directors of the GMD the opportunity to assist with the investigation.

(5) If the source of water is groundwater, the chief engineer may require hydrologic testing to determine hydrological characteristics as part of the investigation. The chief engineer shall provide notice to water right owners in a geographic area sufficient to conduct the hydrologic testing and to determine who could be affected by the actions made necessary by the results of the investigation. These water right owners shall be known as the potentially affected

parties. As part of the investigation, the chief engineer may require access to points of diversion or observation wells and may require the installation of observation wells.

(6) Data acquired during the investigation shall be provided to the complainant and any other persons notified for review and comment at their request as the investigation proceeds.

(c) Report. The chief engineer shall issue a report stating the relevant findings of the investigation.

(1) If the complainant's water right is a domestic water right or has surface water as its source and the complainant claims impairment by the diversion of water pursuant to surface rights, the chief engineer shall provide a copy of the report to the complainant and to the potentially affected parties. This report shall constitute the final report of the investigation.

(2) If the complainant's water right is not a domestic right and has groundwater as its source or if the complainant's water right has surface water as its source and claims impairment by the diversion of water pursuant to groundwater rights, a copy of the report shall be provided by the division of water resources to the complainant and to the potentially affected parties. The report shall be posted by the division of water resources on the department of agriculture's web site. This report shall constitute the initial report of the investigation.

(A) If the initial report shows impairment, the potentially affected parties shall have the opportunity to submit written comments on the initial report within 30 days of its posting on the department's web site or a longer period if granted by the chief engineer. The chief engineer shall consider the written comments of the potentially affected parties.

(B) If the area of complaint is located within the boundaries of a GMD, the chief engineer shall provide a copy of the initial report to the GMD and shall consider any written comments submitted by the GMD board within 30 days of the posting of the initial report on the department's web site or a longer period if granted by the chief engineer.

(C) Nothing in this regulation shall prevent the chief engineer from regulating water uses that the chief engineer has determined are directly impairing senior water rights during the comment period or, if applicable, before obtaining written comments by the GMD board during the comment period.

(3) After reviewing comments on the initial report from potentially affected parties and, if applicable, from the GMD board, the chief engineer shall issue a final report, which shall be

provided to the complainant, the potentially affected parties, and the GMD board if applicable and shall be posted on the department of agriculture's web site.

(4) The chief engineer may require conservation plans authorized by K.S.A. 82a-733, and amendments thereto, based on the initial and final reports.

(5) If the chief engineer's final report determines impairment and the source of water is a regional aquifer, the final report shall determine whether the impairment is substantially caused by a regional overall lowering of the water table. If the impairment is determined to be substantially caused by a regional overall lowering of the water table, no further action shall be taken under this regulation, and the procedure specified in K.A.R. 5-4-1a shall be followed.

(d) Request to secure water. If the complainant desires the chief engineer to regulate water rights that the final report has found to be impairing the complainant's water right, the complainant shall submit a written request to secure water to satisfy the complainant's prior right. The request to secure water shall be submitted on a prescribed form furnished by the division of water resources. The complainant shall specify the minimum reasonable rate needed to satisfy the water right and shall also provide information substantiating that need. The chief

engineer shall determine how to regulate the impairing rights. Each request to secure water to satisfy irrigation-use water rights shall expire at the end of the calendar year in which the request was submitted.

(e) Notice of order.

(1) The chief engineer shall give a written notice and directive to those water right holders whose use of water must be curtailed to secure water to satisfy the complainant's prior rights.

(2) If the area of complaint is located within the boundaries of a GMD and if the final report determines that the impairment is substantially due to direct interference, the chief engineer shall allow the GMD board to recommend how to regulate the impairing water rights to satisfy the impaired right.

(3) The chief engineer may consider regulating the impairing rights the next year and rotating water use among rights.

(4) All water delivered to the user's point of diversion for that individual's use at the specified rate or less shall be applied to the authorized beneficial use and shall count against the quantity of water specified unless the user notifies the chief engineer or authorized representative that diversion and use will be discontinued for a period of time for good reason.

(5) When the quantity of water needed has been delivered to the user's point of diversion or when the user discontinues that individual's use of water, those persons who have been directed to regulate their use shall be notified that they may resume the diversion and use of water.

(6) If the available water supply in the source increases, the chief engineer may allow some or all of the regulated users to resume use, depending on the supply. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 82a-706a; modified, L. 1978, ch. 460, May 1, 1978; amended Oct. 29, 2010.)

**K.A.R. 5-4-1a. Distribution of water between users when a prior right is being impaired due to a regional lowering of the water table.** (a) When a complaint is received that

a prior right to the use of water is being impaired, the procedure specified in K.A.R. 5-4-1 shall be followed until the determination is made that the impairment is caused substantially by a regional lowering of the water table.

(b)(1) If the area of complaint is located within the boundaries of a groundwater management district (GMD), the GMD board shall recommend the steps necessary to satisfy senior water rights. Recommendations may include following the GMD management program, amending the GMD management program, or pursuing any other means to satisfy senior water rights. The GMD board shall submit its recommendations to the chief engineer within six months of the determination that the impairment is caused substantially by a regional lowering of the water table or within a longer time if approved by the chief engineer.

(2) The GMD board shall publish notice of its recommendations once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the impairment is occurring.

(3) The chief engineer shall determine the appropriate course of action to satisfy senior water rights. To that end, the chief engineer shall consider the GMD's timely recommendations and may conduct a study similar to that described in paragraph (c)(1).

(4) The chief engineer shall publish notice of the course of action once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the impairment is occurring.

(c)(1) If the area of complaint is located outside the boundaries of a GMD and determined to be caused by a regional lowering of the water table, the chief engineer shall conduct a study to determine the appropriate course of action. The study shall include a determination of the effectiveness and economic impact of administering one or more water rights in accordance with K.A.R. 5-4-1, the effectiveness and economic impact of the types of corrective controls listed under K.S.A. 82a-1038 and amendments thereto, and any other means to satisfy senior water rights while preserving the economic vitality of the region.

(2) The chief engineer shall determine the appropriate course of action, based on the study described in paragraph (c)(1).

(3) The chief engineer shall publish notice of the course of action once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the impairment is occurring. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 82a-706a; effective Oct. 29, 2010.)

**K.A.R. 5-7-1. Due and sufficient cause for nonuse.** (a) Each of the following circumstances shall be considered "due and sufficient cause," as used in K.S.A. 82a-718, and amendments thereto:

(1) Adequate moisture from natural precipitation exists for the production of grain, forage, or specialty crops, as determined by the moisture requirements of the specific crop.

(2) A right has been established or is in the process of being perfected for use of water from one or more preferred sources in which a supply is available currently but is likely to be depleted during periods of drought.

(3) Water is not available from the source of water supply for the authorized use at times needed.

(4) Water use is temporarily discontinued by the owner for a definite period of time to permit soil, moisture, and water conservation, as documented by any of the following:

(A) Furnishing to the chief engineer a copy of a contract showing that land that has been lawfully irrigated with a water right that has not been abandoned is enrolled in a multiyear federal or state conservation program that has been approved by the chief engineer;

(B) enrolling the water right in the water right conservation program in accordance with K.A.R. 5-7-4; or

(C) any other method acceptable to the chief engineer that can be adequately documented by the owner before the nonuse takes place.

(5) Management and conservation practices are being applied that require the use of less water than authorized. If a conservation plan has been required by the chief engineer, the management and conservation practices used shall be consistent with the conservation plan approved by the chief engineer to qualify under this subsection.

(6) The chief engineer has previously approved the placement of the point of diversion in a standby status in accordance with K.A.R. 5-1-2.

(7) Physical problems exist with the point of diversion, distribution system, place of use, or the operator. This circumstance shall constitute due and sufficient cause only for a period of time reasonable to correct the problem.

(8) Conditions exist beyond the control of the owner that prevent access to the authorized place of use or point of diversion, as long as the owner is taking reasonable affirmative action to gain access.

(9) An alternate source of water supply was not needed and was not used because the

primary source of supply was adequate to supply the needs of the water right owner.

(10) The chief engineer determines that a manifest injustice would result if the water right were deemed abandoned under the circumstances of the case.

(11) The water right is located in an area of the state that is closed to new appropriations of water by regulation or order of the chief engineer but is not closed by a safetyfield analysis.

(b) In addition to circumstances considered due and sufficient cause pursuant to subsection (a), both of the following requirements shall also be met to constitute due and sufficient cause for nonuse of water:

(1) The reason purporting to constitute due and sufficient cause shall have in fact prevented, or made unnecessary, the authorized beneficial use of water.

(2) Except for the temporarily discontinued use of water as provided by paragraph (a)(4) and for physical problems with the point of diversion or distribution system as provided by paragraph (a)(7), the owner shall maintain the diversion works in a functional condition.

(c) Each year of nonuse for which the chief engineer finds that due and sufficient cause exists shall be considered to interrupt the successive years of nonuse for which due and sufficient cause does not exist.

(d) When a verified report of the chief engineer, or the chief engineer's authorized representative, is made a matter of record at a hearing held pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-718, and amendments thereto, that establishes nonuse of a water right for five or more successive years, the water right owner shall have the burden of showing that there have not been five or more successive years of nonuse without due and sufficient cause. (Authorized by K.S.A. 82a-706a;

implementing K.S.A. 82a-706a and K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 82a-718; modified, L. 1978, ch. 460, May 1, 1978; amended May 1, 1986; amended May 31, 1994; amended Oct. 24, 2003; amended May 21, 2010.)

**K.A.R. 5-17-2. Application to deposit a water right into a water bank or withdraw a deposit.**

(a) Each water right owner proposing to deposit all or a portion of a water right into a water bank shall complete an application on a form prescribed by the water bank and approved by the chief engineer. The application shall be filed with the water bank on or before April 1 of the year in which the deposit will be made. A water right, or a portion of a water right, may be deposited only in increments of full calendar years. A water right shall not be eligible for deposit if water use occurred under the water right, or a portion of the water right, at any time from January 1 through March 31 of the year in which the deposit will be made. The application shall contain the following information concerning the water right, or portion of the water right, that is proposed to be deposited:

(1) The file number of the water right to be deposited;

(2) if the water right is a vested right or an appropriation right that has been certified by the chief engineer, specification of that status;

(3) the hydrologic unit from which the water right is authorized to withdraw water;

(4) the calendar years during which the water right will be on deposit. This period shall not exceed five years; and

(5) any CRP contracts that were in effect for any part of the representative past period.

(b) A water right may be withdrawn from deposit only if both of the following conditions are met:

(1) The water right has not been leased in whole or part.

(2) An application to withdraw the water right from deposit is made before July 1 of the calendar year for which the deposit has been made. Withdrawal of a water right during one calendar year also shall withdraw the water right from deposit in any subsequent years for which the water right may have been deposited. (Authorized by K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 82a-769; implementing K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 82a-763, K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 82a-764, and K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 82a-769; effective Aug. 13, 2004; amended May 21, 2010.)