

SENATE BILL No. 310

By Committee on Natural Resources

1-19

1 AN ACT concerning water; relating to local enhanced management areas;
2 groundwater management districts.

3
4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. (a) Whenever a groundwater management district
6 recommends the approval of a local enhanced management plan within the
7 district to address any of the conditions set forth in subsections (a) through
8 (d) of K.S.A. 82a-1036, and amendments thereto, the chief engineer shall
9 review the local enhanced management plan submitted by the groundwater
10 management district. The chief engineer's review shall be limited to
11 whether the plan:

- 12 (1) Proposes clear geographic boundaries;
13 (2) pertains to an area wholly within the groundwater management
14 district;
15 (3) proposes goals and corrective control provisions as provided in
16 subsection (f) adequate to meet the stated goals;
17 (4) includes a compliance monitoring and enforcement element; and
18 (5) is consistent with state law.

19 If, based on such review, the chief engineer finds that the local
20 enhanced management plan is acceptable for consideration, the chief
21 engineer shall initiate, as soon as practicable thereafter, proceedings to
22 designate a local enhanced management area.

23 (b) In any case where proceedings to designate a local enhanced
24 management area are initiated, the chief engineer shall conduct an initial
25 public hearing on the question of designating such an area as a local
26 enhanced management area according to the local enhanced management
27 plan. The initial public hearing shall resolve the following findings of fact:

- 28 (1) Whether one or more of the circumstances specified in subsection
29 (a) through (d) of K.S.A. 82a-1036, and amendments thereto, exist;
30 (2) whether the public interest of K.S.A. 82a-1020, and amendments
31 thereto, requires that one or more corrective control provisions be adopted;
32 and
33 (3) whether the geographic boundaries are reasonable.

34 The chief engineer shall conduct a subsequent hearing or hearings only
35 if the initial public hearing is favorable on all three issues of fact and the
36 expansion of geographic boundaries is not recommended. At least 30 days

1 prior to the date set for any hearing, written notice of such hearing shall
2 be given to every person holding a water right of record within the area in
3 question and by one publication in any newspaper of general circulation
4 within the area in question. The notice shall state the question and shall
5 denote the time and place of the hearing. At every such hearing,
6 documentary and oral evidence shall be taken and a complete record of the
7 same shall be kept.

8 (c) The subject matter of the hearing or hearings set forth in
9 subsection (b) shall be limited to the local enhanced management plan that
10 the chief engineer previously reviewed pursuant to subsection (a) and set
11 for hearing.

12 (d) Within 120 days of the conclusion of the final public hearing set
13 forth in subsections (b) and (c), the chief engineer shall issue an order of
14 decision:

15 (1) Accepting the local enhanced management plan as sufficient to
16 address any of the conditions set forth in subsections (a) through (d) of
17 K.S.A. 82a-1036, and amendments thereto;

18 (2) rejecting the local enhanced management plan as insufficient to
19 address any of the conditions set forth in subsections (a) through (d) of
20 K.S.A. 82a-1036, and amendments thereto;

21 (3) returning the local enhanced management plan to the groundwater
22 management district, giving reasons for the return and providing the
23 district with the opportunity to resubmit a revised plan for public hearing
24 within 90 days of the return of the deficient plan; or

25 (4) returning the local enhanced management plan to the groundwater
26 management district and proposing modifications to the plan, based on
27 testimony at the hearing or hearings, that will improve the administration
28 of the plan, but will not impose reductions in groundwater withdrawals
29 that exceed those contained in the plan. If the groundwater management
30 district approves of the modifications proposed by the chief engineer, the
31 district shall notify the chief engineer within 90 days of receipt of return of
32 the plan. Upon receipt of the groundwater management district's approval
33 of the modifications, the chief engineer shall accept the modified local
34 management plan. If the groundwater management district does not
35 approve of the modifications proposed by the chief engineer, the local
36 management plan shall not be accepted.

37 (e) In any case where the chief engineer issues an order of decision
38 accepting the local enhanced management plan pursuant to subsection (d),
39 the chief engineer, within a reasonable time, shall issue an order of
40 designation that designates the area in question as a local enhanced
41 management area.

42 (f) The order of designation shall define the boundaries of the local
43 enhanced management area and shall indicate the circumstances upon

1 which the findings of the chief engineer are made. The order of
2 designation may include any of the following corrective control provisions
3 set forth in the local enhanced management plan:

4 (1) Closing the local enhanced management area to any further
5 appropriation of groundwater. In which event, the chief engineer shall
6 thereafter refuse to accept any application for a permit to appropriate
7 groundwater located within such area;

8 (2) determining the permissible total withdrawal of groundwater in
9 the local enhanced management area each day, month or year, and, insofar
10 as may be reasonably done, the chief engineer shall apportion such
11 permissible total withdrawal among the valid groundwater right holders in
12 such area in accordance with the relative dates of priority of such rights;

13 (3) reducing the permissible withdrawal of groundwater by any one
14 or more appropriators thereof, or by wells in the local enhanced
15 management area;

16 (4) requiring and specifying a system of rotation of groundwater use
17 in the local enhanced management area; or

18 (5) any other provisions making such additional requirements as are
19 necessary to protect the public interest.

20 The chief engineer is hereby authorized to delegate the enforcement of
21 any corrective control provisions ordered for a local enhanced
22 management area to the groundwater management district in which that
23 area is located, upon written request by the district.

24 (g) The order of designation shall follow, insofar as may be
25 reasonably done, the geographical boundaries recommended by the local
26 enhanced management plan.

27 (h) Except as provided in subsection (f), the order of designation of a
28 local enhanced management area shall be in full force and effect from the
29 date of its entry in the records of the chief engineer's office unless and
30 until its operation shall be stayed by an appeal from an order entered on
31 review of the chief engineer's order pursuant to K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 82a-
32 1901, and amendments thereto, and in accordance with the provisions of
33 the Kansas judicial review act. The chief engineer upon request shall
34 deliver a copy of such order to any interested person who is affected by
35 such order and shall file a copy of the same with the register of deeds of
36 any county within which any part of the local enhanced management area
37 lies.

38 (i) If the holder of a groundwater right within the local enhanced
39 management area applies for review of the order of designation pursuant to
40 K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 82a-1901, and amendments thereto, the provisions of
41 the order with respect to the inclusion of the holder's water right within the
42 area may be stayed in accordance with the Kansas administrative
43 procedure act.

1 (j) Unless otherwise specified in the proposed enhanced management
2 plan and included in the order of designation, a public hearing to review
3 the designation of a local enhanced management area shall be conducted
4 by the chief engineer within seven years after the order of designation is
5 final. A subsequent review of the designation shall occur within 10 years
6 after the previous public review hearing or more frequently as determined
7 by the chief engineer. Upon the request of a petition signed by at least 10%
8 of the affected water users in a local enhanced management area, a public
9 review hearing to review the designation shall be conducted by the chief
10 engineer. This requested public review hearing shall not be conducted
11 more frequently than every four years.

12 (k) The chief engineer shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate
13 and administer the provisions of this section.

14 (l) The provisions of this section shall be part of and supplemental to
15 the provisions of K.S.A. 82a-1020 through K.S.A. 82a-1040, and
16 amendments thereto.

17 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
18 publication in the Kansas register.