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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE WYOMING STATE ENGINEER

THIRD EXTENSION OF THE TEMPORARY ORDER ADOPTING WELL SPACING REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE LARAMIE COUNTY CONTROL AREA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:

Responding to mounting concerns over increasing development and use of groundwater resources in southeast Wyoming, Wyoming State Engineer Patrick T. Tyrrell issued a *Temporary Order Adopting Well Spacing Requirements within the Laramie County Control Area* on April 11, 2012. The Temporary Order establishes well spacing restrictions (horizontally and vertically) as well as use limitations for most new groundwater applications within the Control Area. The Temporary Order was initially scheduled to remain in effect until October 1, 2013, but was previously extended through March 31, 2014, then through June 30, 2014.

Following issuance of the Temporary Order, the Wyoming State Engineer's Office embarked on a hydrogeologic study, the results of which are intended to, among other things, inform future groundwater management decisions whether through controls adopted by the State Engineer or by voluntary agreement as allowed by statute. The study was completed and made available to the public on March 27, 2014. On April 10, 2014, a public hearing was held before the Wyoming State Engineer and the Laramie County Control Area Advisory Board pursuant to Wyoming Statute § 41-3-915. On April 24, 2014, the Laramie County Control Area Advisory Board advised the State Engineer that the underground water in the Control Area is not adequate for the needs of all appropriators.

For thirty (30) days following the public hearing, the State Engineer invited and received written comments from interested parties. Many of those comments support continuation of the controls contained in the Temporary Order. Additionally, multiple appropriators presented conceptual plans for potential voluntary agreements which would implement groundwater withdrawal controls. Appropriators have also expressed a desire for more time to develop voluntary agreements and to more fully understand the complex hydrogeologic study prior to the State Engineer issuing a permanent order. Wyoming Statute § 41-3-915(c) directs the State Engineer to encourage and promote voluntary agreements and to supply the parties with information and advice. The control area is complex both in terms of

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hydrogeology and groundwater uses and, as such, any voluntary agreement which implements an approvable method of controls will likely require a similar degree of complexity as well as support from representatives of the various groundwater use categories (irrigation, municipal, industrial, domestic, and other miscellaneous uses).

THE WYOMING STATE ENGINEER HEREBY ORDERS THAT:

Additional time is necessary to encourage and promote a voluntary agreement between appropriators for groundwater withdrawal controls within the Laramie County Control Area. Therefore, the *Temporary Order Adopting Well Spacing Requirements within the Laramie County Control Area* is extended through April 1, 2015, unless modified or cancelled at an earlier date by subsequent order of the Wyoming State Engineer. At that time, it is anticipated this Temporary Order will be replaced either by an approved voluntary agreement, or a permanent order and/or regulations.

Dated June 30, 2014



Patrick T. Tyrrell
Wyoming State Engineer