

State Engineer's Office

GOVERNOR

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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

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State Engineer's Office Begins Auditing Compliance in Laramie County Control Area

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – The Wyoming State Engineer's Office (SEO) will begin auditing compliance with the Order of the State Engineer - Laramie County Control Area, dated April 1, 2015, beginning October 1, 2016.

Under terms of the Order, prior to use in water year 2017, which begins October 1, 2016, all irrigation, municipal, industrial, and miscellaneous use wells within the Laramie County Control Area completed in the High Plains Aquifer shall be fitted with functional and accurate flow meters properly sized for the flow rate of the well pump and approved by the Water Division I Superintendent. All such meters must be kept in proper working order and maintained to the Superintendent's satisfaction. Wells without an approved and properly functioning flow meter shall not be pumped after September 30, 2016. Detailed questions on flow meter requirements can be directed to Mr. Brian Pugsley, Water Division I Superintendent, at 307-532-2248, or to the Ground Water Division of the SEO at 307-777-6163.

Also under terms of the Order, no later than November 15 of each year appropriators must deliver monthly and annual reports on total groundwater production for the immediately prior water year for each metered well to the SEO Ground Water Division on forms provided by the SEO. For example, total monthly and annual well production for any such well during water year 2017 (October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017) shall be delivered to the SEO Ground Water Division by November 15, 2017.

Additionally, appropriators of all unadjudicated, non time-limited, irrigation, municipal, industrial, and miscellaneous use underground water appropriations (including enlargements) developed in the High Plains Aquifer within the Laramie County Control Area must adjudicate their appropriations by November 30, 2017. Wells that are not adjudicated by this date will be tagged, locked, and foreclosed from use until adjudication is complete. If you question whether your well is subject to any of the above requirements, you may contact the SEO at the numbers above.

Appropriators are reminded that failure to comply with the Order could result in prosecution under Wyoming Statute § 41-3-616 and, if found guilty, a fine not to exceed \$1,250.00 for each day of noncompliance after notice, or result in cancellation or suspension of the water right after notice and opportunity to be heard under Wyoming Statute § 41-3-937.

Additional information and guidance can be found at http://seo.wyo.gov Thank you.

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