

State Engineer's Office to Host Public Meeting:
The Hydrogeologic Study of the Laramie County Control Area
March 21, 2013

The Wyoming State Engineer's Office will host a public meeting on March 21, 2013 to introduce the *Hydrogeologic Study of the Laramie County Control Area*. The meeting will be held in Room B63 in the lower level of the Herschler Building located at 122 West 25th Street, Cheyenne, Wyoming. The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m.

Responding to mounting concerns over increasing development and use of groundwater resources in southeast Wyoming, the State Engineer issued a *Temporary Order Adopting Well Spacing Requirements within the Laramie County Control Area* on April 11, 2012. The Temporary Order limits groundwater development in the Laramie County Control Area until October 1, 2013. The Temporary Order establishes well spacing restrictions (horizontally and vertically) as well as use limitations for most new groundwater applications and changes to existing water rights within the Control Area.

Following issuance of the Temporary Order, the SEO embarked on the referenced hydrogeologic study. The study will inform any groundwater management decisions to follow, whether through processes instituted by the SEO or by voluntary action.

In August 2012, the State Engineer's Office contracted with AMEC Environment & Infrastructure (AMEC), Hinckley Consulting (Hinckley), and HDR, Inc. (HDR) to conduct the *Hydrogeologic Study of the Laramie County Control Area*. The purpose of the study is to use existing geologic, hydrogeologic, and water rights information within the Laramie County Control Area to model the groundwater resources in the Control Area. Using those results, the study will provide possible alternatives for corrective controls within the Control Area, as well as evaluate the presence of appropriable water.

This meeting provides an opportunity for AMEC, Hinckley, and HDR to introduce the project, present their conceptual model, and offer ideas for the Laramie County Control Area. The State Engineer anticipates this first public meeting to be a "stakeholder" meeting, designed to inform the public of the study, give the public a chance to share any relevant, local, hydrologic knowledge, and to foster discussion regarding policy options for water management.

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