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-----For Immediate Release-----

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State Engineer Extends Temporary Order in Laramie County Control Area

CHEYENNE, WY – 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 and changes to existing water rights within the Control Area.

Following issuance of the Temporary Order, the Wyoming State Engineer's Office (SEO) embarked on a hydrogeologic study – the results of which will be used to 1) inform future groundwater management decisions – whether through processes instituted by the SEO or by voluntary action, 2) determine the status of appropriable water in the control area, and 3) provide sound and defensible science to support any control measures that might be adopted.

In August 2012, the SEO contracted with AMEC Environment & Infrastructure (AMEC), Hinckley Consulting (Hinckley), and HDR, Inc. (HDR) to conduct the hydrogeologic study. The study will 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.

The Temporary Order was initially scheduled to remain in effect until October 1, 2013. However, due to time extensions needed to finish the hydrogeologic analysis and time needed to prepare options for presentation to the Laramie County Control Area for preserving and/or extending the groundwater resources of the area, the Wyoming State Engineer is extending the temporary order through March 31, 2014, unless modified or cancelled at an earlier date by subsequent order of the State Engineer.