

NEWS RELEASE

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2013

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2013 Draft Rules Related to the New Fully Appropriated Basin Evaluation Methodology

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources has released new draft rules and methods that it plans to utilize in its annual evaluation of availability of hydrologically connected water supplies. This annual evaluation is aimed at ensuring that streamflow water supplies for existing groundwater and surface water uses are protected into the future. The results of this yearly evaluation are highly valuable in supporting proactive planning efforts conducted by the state and local natural resources districts.

These new rules and methods are aimed at providing greater clarity on the basin water supplies and water uses across the state to facilitate more effective water planning efforts. Director Brian Dunnigan said, "These new rules and methods which have been developed over the last four years will serve to provide foundational information on Nebraska's water supplies and uses, thus allowing for more effective coordinated planning efforts across the state."

In an effort to address questions or comments related to the new draft rules and methods the Department has set up a sixty-day public comment period which will run through June 7th. During this public comment period, the Department will hold several public forums across the state. These forums will serve to answer questions related to the new rules and methods. These public forums will be held:

Monday, May 13, 2013	Norfolk & Valentine
Tuesday, May 14, 2013	Scottsbluff & Kearney
Wednesday, May 15, 2013	Beatrice
Thursday, May 16, 2013	Lincoln

The Department has also developed a web-portal to receive public comments related to the draft rules and methods. To view more information, the specific times and locations of these forums or to provide your comments on the draft rules and methods, you are encouraged to visit the Department's website at <http://dnr.ne.gov>.

Public hearings are anticipated to be held later this summer after public comments have been received with potential rules modifications to be finalized by the end of the year.

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