

Appendix E Upper Republican Natural Resource District

**RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR
GROUND WATER CONTROL
OF THE
UPPER REPUBLICAN
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
MANAGEMENT AREA
ORDER NO. 25**

**EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2002
IN CONCERT WITH
REVISED PARTS IV AND VI OF THE
URNRD TECHNICAL MANUAL, TM – 25**

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**STATE OF NEBRASKA
UPPER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
AMENDMENTS TO RULES AND REGULATIONS
GROUNDWATER CONTROL -ORDER NO. 25**

Pursuant to Section 46-656.25, R.R.S. 1998, Rules and Regulations for Groundwater Control, Order No.25, and Technical Manual TM 25 adopted July 2, 2002, are amended as follows:

RULE I: DEFINITIONS

All words, terms and phrases used herein shall be given their common, every day meaning and usage. In addition:

- A. **Allocated Acres** shall mean the specific number of acres that have been Certified by the Board as eligible to be granted an allocation of groundwater.
- B. **Allocation** shall mean the amount of groundwater granted by the Board to a groundwater user, pursuant to these rules and regulations.
- C. **Board of Directors** or **Board** shall mean the elected Board of Directors of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District.
- D. **Certified Irrigated Acre** shall mean any acre of ground upon which groundwater is being applied for irrigation purposes, regardless of the source of the groundwater, that is properly equipped to apply groundwater for irrigation purposes, and that has an allocation and is certified as such by the Board. **(Also see Irrigated Acre)**
- E. **Certified Irrigated Tract** shall mean an irrigated tract, not exceeding 640 contiguous acres, consisting of Certified Irrigated Acres. **(Also see Irrigated Tract)**
- F. **Critical Township** shall mean any township within the Management Area designated as Critical under the criterion of Rule 4 herein, and in TM-25.
- G. **District** shall mean the Upper Republican Natural Resources District, which encompasses Chase, Dundy, and Perkins Counties, in the State of Nebraska.
- H. **Flowmeter** shall mean a device of a type or design approved by the Board, which, when installed, operated and maintained according to District specifications, measures and totalizes the amount of groundwater withdrawn.
- I. **Groundwater Irrigation Runoff** shall mean groundwater used for irrigation purposes which escapes from land owned, leased, or otherwise under the control of a groundwater user. Groundwater that becomes commingled with surface water runoff shall be treated as irrigation runoff; except that groundwater irrigation runoff, whether commingled with surface water or not, which reaches a stream becomes surface water and is not subject to these rules and regulations.

- J. **Improper Groundwater Irrigation Runoff** shall mean the occurrence of groundwater irrigation runoff which causes or contributes to the: accumulation of water upon or beneath the surface of the lands of any person to their detriment, damage, or inconvenience; deterioration of water quality by depositing sediment and/or associated chemicals in surface water within the Management Area; and/or flow of groundwater to waste. Improper groundwater irrigation runoff is subject to the General Enforcement Provisions of Order No.25 and TM-25.
- K. **Irrigated Acre** shall mean any acre with a demonstrated or proven history of having been or currently being irrigated.
- L. **Irrigated Tract** shall mean any acres with a demonstrated or proven history of having been or currently being irrigated.
- M. **Management Area** shall mean all of Perkins, Chase and Dundy Counties and shall include the rock unit known as the Ogallala Formation and all other deposits of more recent geological age. That part of Dundy County lying south of the centerline of the Republican River and its North Fork Tributary, including the rock unit known as the Ogallala Formation and all other deposits of more recent geological age, is subject only to Rules 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9(B, C, D, E, & F), 12,13, 14(A,C), 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20; and supplemental counterparts in Part VI of the Technical Manual.
- N. **Offset** shall mean any deduction from an allocation.
- O. **Permit** shall mean a permit, granted by the Board, with conditions specified by the Board, for construction of a new well or a replacement well pursuant to these rules and regulations. All new and replacement wells, except Domestic and Range Livestock, shall require a permit after September 1, 2002 prior to construction of the well.
- P. **Person** shall mean a natural person, a partnership, a limited liability company, an association, a corporation, a municipality, an agency or political subdivision of the State or of the United States. The male pronoun shall include the female.
- Q. **Pooling** shall mean any contract approved by the Board in which groundwater allocations are combined.
- R. **Technical Manual** shall mean a publication of the District that contains technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory and other materials, the contents of which are incorporated into these rules by reference herein. The Technical Manual is available to the public.
- S. **Transfer** shall mean any arrangement approved by the Board in which the point of withdrawal, the point of use, or the type of use of an allocation is altered.
- T. **State** shall refer to the State of Nebraska.
- U. **Well** shall mean any water well as defined in Nebraska statutes, Sections 46-601.01, 46-635.01, 46-1204.01, 46-1204.02, and 46-1212, R.R.S. For the purposes of these rules and regulations, wells are further defined and classified as follows:
1. **Domestic Wells** are wells used by a person or by a family unit or household for normal household uses and for the irrigation of lands not exceeding two acres in area for the growing of gardens, orchards, and lawns. Such wells are exempt from application of these rules.

2. **Range Livestock Wells** are wells, which are used for the watering of range livestock, and other uses of water directly related to the operation of a pasture or range. Such wells are exempt from application of these rules except for Rule 1-U-8.
3. **Irrigation Wells** are active wells that are fully equipped, and used for the pumping of groundwater to irrigated acres for the production of crops. Such wells must have a permit, Certified Acres, and an allocation; and be used in conjunction with a flowmeter located in the District
4. **Commercial Livestock Wells** are wells which are used for the watering of livestock and other uses directly related to the operation of a feedlot or other confined livestock operation or dairy. Such wells must have a District permit and water allocation; and be used in conjunction with a flowmeter located in the District.
5. **Back-up Wells** are wells designed for confined livestock and dairy operations and which operate only in emergencies when the main well fails. Back-up wells shall not be operated simultaneously with the commercial livestock wells, which they back up. Such wells must have a permit and any water pumped from such shall be accounted against the allocation for the well it backs up. Such well must be used in conjunction with a flowmeter located in the District.
6. **Industrial Wells** are wells used in manufacturing and commerce operations, and/or watering and maintenance of golf courses. Such wells must have a permit and an allocation; and be used in conjunction with a flowmeter located in the District.
7. **Municipal Wells** are wells owned and used by municipalities for public water supply. Such wells must have a permit and an allocation; and be used in conjunction with a flowmeter located in the District.
8. **Commingled Wells** are water wells that are commingled, combined, clustered, or joined with any other water well or wells or other water source, other than a water source used to water range livestock, after August 31, 1998. Such wells shall be considered one water well and the combined capacity shall be used as the rated capacity. Such wells must, prior to operation, have a permit and an allocation, and be used in conjunction with a flowmeter located in the District.
9. **Supplemental Well** is any well, the water from which is commingled with the water from any other well for irrigation purposes.
10. **Replacement Well** shall mean a well as defined by Section 46-602(3), R.R.S
11. **Abandoned Well** shall mean a well as defined by Section 46-1204.01, R.R.S.
12. **Inactive Status Well** shall mean a well as defined by Section 46-1207.02, R.R.S. The owner of any permitted well must notify the District when an active well is placed in inactive status.
13. **Monitoring Well** shall mean a well as defined by 178 NAC 12 at 002, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.
14. **Observation Well** shall mean a well as defined by 178 NAC 12 at 002, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

15. **Illegal Well** shall mean a well as defined by Sections 46-656.07(5) and 46-1207.01, R.R.S.

See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule.

RULE 2: FLOWMETERS

After the effective date of Order 25, all wells requiring permits shall be equipped with flowmeters or other device or method approved by the Board. Owners or operators of such wells shall allow the District staff to determine from the flowmeters, by January 15 of each year, the amount of groundwater withdrawn from each well during the preceding calendar year.

See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule. See especially, "Flowmeters", pages 12 & 13, Part VI, TM-25.

RULE 3: IRRIGATED ACRES AND TRACTS

- A. The total number of acres irrigated in the District, belonging to or under the control of every groundwater user, must be reported annually to the District
- B. Wells drilled in Critical Townships after August 31, 1998, shall not be deemed to be irrigating more than 130 acres for groundwater allocation purposes, except for replacement wells, which shall be deemed to irrigate the same number of Certified Acres as the well being replaced. Wells without allocations that are returned to service after being idled, are subject to the 130-acre maximum limitation, or the previously irrigated acres if less than 130 acres.
- C. The Board will specify the number of Certified Irrigated Acres on each Certified Irrigated Tract for each groundwater user. Failure of the groundwater user to confirm the number of acres irrigated under his ownership or control shall preclude the Board from granting an allocation to such user.

See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule. See especially "Irrigated Acres and Tracts", page 13 & 14, Part VI; TM-25.

RULE 4: CRITICAL TOWNSHIPS

Critical Townships are those townships that have a three-year average annual decline of the groundwater table exceeding one-fourth of one percent of the saturated thickness of the aquifer in that township as determined by yearly groundwater measurements of observation and continuous recorder wells throughout the Management Area. Townships designated as Critical are listed in the District Technical Manual; and shall remain designated as Critical for a minimum of five years.

See District Technical Manual for a list of designated Critical Townships; and technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule. See especially "Critical Townships", pages 14, 15 & 16, Part VI; TM-25.

RULE 5: WELL SPACING

Spacing of all wells, for which District permits are required, and regardless of ownership and classification, must be approved by the Board prior to drilling the well. The following regulation applies to the

spacing of all wells subject to these rules and regulations and receiving permits from the District:

A. In Non-Critical Townships:

1. New Wells - Any irrigation, commercial livestock, industrial, or municipal well drilled in a Non-Critical Township after August 31, 2000, must be at least 1,320 feet from any domestic, livestock, irrigation, commercial livestock, industrial or municipal well not belonging to the owner or controller of the land upon which the new well is established.
2. Replacement Wells -With the exception of A.2.(a), any irrigation, commercial livestock, industrial, or municipal well drilled in a Non-Critical Township as a replacement well after August 31,2000, must be at least 1,320 feet from any domestic, livestock, irrigation, commercial livestock, industrial or municipal well not belonging to the owner or controller of the land upon which the replacement well is to be established.
 - (a) If the well to be replaced is within 1,320 feet of a domestic, livestock, irrigation, commercial livestock, industrial or municipal well not belonging to the owner or controller of the land upon which the replacement well is to be established, the replacement well must be drilled within 150 feet of the well it replaces.

B. In Critical Townships:

1. New Wells - Any irrigation, commercial livestock, industrial, or municipal well drilled in a Critical Township after August 31, 2000, must be at least 1,320 feet from any domestic or livestock well, and 5,280 feet from any other well not belonging to the owner or controller of the land upon which the new well is established.
2. Replacement Wells -With the exception of B.2.(a), any irrigation, commercial livestock, industrial, or municipal well drilled in a Critical Township as a replacement well after August 31, 2000, must be at least 1,320 feet from any domestic or livestock well and 5,280 feet from any irrigation, commercial livestock, industrial or municipal well not belonging to the owner or controller of the land upon which the replacement well is established.
 - (a) If the well to be replaced is within 1,320 feet of a domestic or livestock well, or within 5,280 feet of any irrigation, commercial livestock, industrial or municipal well not belonging to the owner or controller of the land upon which the replacement well is to be established, the replacement well must be drilled within 150 feet of the abandoned well it replaces.

C. In the event any Statute of the State of Nebraska prescribes any well spacing requirement that is more stringent or restrictive than the well spacing requirement of Rule 9, the State Statute shall prevail.

See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule. See especially "Well Spacing", pages 16 & 17, Part VI, TM-25.

RULE 6: INACTIVE STATUS WELLS

The Board may approve the placing of Active Wells into Inactive Status at the request of the well owner or their legally appointed representative.

- A. All wells being placed into an Inactive Status shall conform to all relevant State statutes including those specifications defined in Section 46-1207.02 as follows:

1. The water well does not allow impairment of the water quality in the well or of the Groundwater encountered by the well;
 2. The top of the water well or water well casing has a water-tight, welded or threaded cover or some other water-tight means to prevent its removal without the use of equipment or tools to prevent unauthorized access, to prevent a safety hazard to humans and animals, and to prevent illegal disposal of waste or contaminants into the water well; and
 3. The water well is marked so as to be easily visible and located and is labeled or otherwise marked so as to be easily identified as a water well and the area surrounding the water well is kept clear of brush, debris, and waste material.
- B. The well shall be marked in a permanent form with the Registration Number as a clearly legible engraving, raised metal embossing of the characters, or on a metal plate permanently welded, riveted or bolted to the casing.
- C. Both the State and the District must be notified within 60 calendar days of when the change to Inactive Status is achieved and any subsequent changes of the status of the well.
- D. While in a Board approved Inactive Status the Well will
- 1) maintain the approved Certified Irrigated Acres and Certified Irrigated Tract associated with it;
 - 2) maintain the Allocation amount current at the time the Board approved the Well being made Inactive:
 - 3) NOT accumulate additional Allocation amounts for the years it is in Inactive Status; and
 - 4) Re-enter Active Status with the Allocation amount it went into Inactive Status with plus any remaining Allocation left for the Allocation period in which it is made Active again.
- E. Failure to comply with and maintain the provisions of A, B, and C above will make the Well an Illegal Well.

See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule.

RULE 7: SUPPLEMENTAL WELLS

No permit shall be granted for any supplemental well as defined in Rule I-U-9.
See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule.

RULE 8: PUMPING OF WATER ACROSS NRD BOUNDARIES

Groundwater pumped from another NRD to this District, or from this District to one or more other Districts, shall be subject to the Rules and Regulations of all involved Districts.

See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule.

RULE 9: ALLOCATIONS OF GROUNDWATER

- A. Each Certified Irrigated Acre within a Certified Irrigated Tract is hereby granted a basic allocation of 72.5 acre inches for the period commencing January 1, 2003 and terminating December 31, 2007.
1. Groundwater users pumping less than the total basic allocation together with unused carryforward from prior allocation periods may carry the total forward to subsequent allocation periods.
 2. If, at the termination of the allocation period, any groundwater user has exceeded his allocation and banked carryforward, his basic allocation for the next allocation period shall be reduced by the number of acre-inches by which he exceeded said allocation and carryforward.
 3. Certified Acres in the Federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) shall not receive an allocation during the term enrolled. Certified Irrigated Acres being removed from the CRP shall be granted an allocation prorated to the years remaining in the allocation period. In addition, upon removal from the CRP, each Certified Acre shall receive the total of the carryforward brought into the 5-year allocation period in effect at the time of enrollment plus the sum of the annualized allocation of 14.5 inches minus the inches used for each year of the allocation period prior to the year of enrollment.
 4. On or before March 1, 2006 the Board of Directors shall commence deliberations concerning groundwater allocations for the succeeding allocation period to start January 1, 2008. Such deliberations shall be completed before August 31, 2006, and an allocation for the succeeding allocation period shall be established.
- B. All Industrial Wells shall have an allocation prior to operation. The owner of each industrial well shall, on or before January 15 of each year, apply for an allocation for that calendar year on forms provided by the District.
- C. Commercial Livestock Wells may be allocated an annual maximum of 22-acre feet per 1000 animal units, designated for an approved capacity.
- D. Each municipality is hereby granted without further application, an annual allocation computed as designated in the District Technical Manual.
- E. Allocations for any and all wells may be amended, reduced, increased, or made subject to limitations or conditions upon notice and hearing.
- F. The District may institute formal adjudicatory proceedings, or take any other legal action authorized or permitted by law, to prohibit further withdrawal of groundwater whenever any groundwater user has exhausted his allocation during or before termination of any allocation period; or has in any other way violated the amount, limitations, or conditions of his allocation. In the event of such action, no groundwater may be withdrawn until the groundwater user has adhered to District Rules and Regulations.

See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule. See especially "Allocations of Groundwater", pages 18 & 19, Part VI, TM-25.

RULE 10: POOLING

The Board may approve pooling of groundwater allocations. The Board will consider the utility of

replacing Pooling, as it now exists, with a Transfer system. The Transfer system, if approved, would be in place by January 1, 2004.

- A. No new pooling contract shall be approved which contains any Certified Irrigated Tract, which has no unused allocation or carryforward of groundwater .
- B. Pooling contracts involving lands within a Critical Township and a non-Critical Township can only be accomplished if such lands are contiguous.
- C. Pooling contracts will be permitted only between individuals, partnerships and corporations and other owners of Certified Irrigated Tracts when accompanied by proof of ownership or an appropriate power of attorney.
- D. A pooling contract shall not result in more groundwater being withdrawn from the aquifer within a Critical Township than the groundwater user has been allocated for Certified Irrigated Acres in Certified Irrigated Tracts within that Critical Township.
- E. Upon the termination of any pooling contract, proof of ownership must be provided
- F. Pooling contracts, or changes to pooling contracts, must be submitted in writing with all required signatures to the District on or before March 31 of the year and approved by the Board before they are implemented.
- G. Certified Irrigated acres in the Federal Conservation Reserve Program, or any successor thereto, may not be involved in any pooling contract.
- H. A Certified Irrigated Tract removed from the Federal Conservation Reserve Program may not be part of a pooling contract within five (5) years of the date said Tract is removed.
- I. If a change of ownership of any Certified Irrigated Tract in a pooling contract occurs, the unused groundwater allocation for said Tract shall remain with said Irrigated Tract. The Board may, upon the written request of the owner or owners of the Tract(s), equalize the unused groundwater allocation among the irrigated acres involved.
- J. Purchased Certified Irrigated Tracts or purchased dry land tracts to be developed for irrigation, will not be eligible to be pooled with any other Certified Irrigated Tracts or Tracts for a period of three (3) irrigation seasons from the date the purchase is made. Tracts that are purchased may be pooled if originally in the same pooling contract.

See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule

RULE 11: TRANSFERS

Board approval must be received for transfer of all or a portion of any groundwater allocation to another tract or use.

Transfers will only be allowed to wells in those areas where the Board, after reviewing all the available and relevant information, determines that the water level in the area proposed to receive the transfer will not decline at a rate in excess of .0025 percent of the Saturated Thickness of the aquifer in the next 3 years.

In making its decision the Board may use the following information obtained by application of the Annual Allowable Withdrawal Model as described on pages 8 and 9 of Technical Manual 25. The Board may use information including but not limited to the trend of change in the level of the aquifer over time from District records, other transfers into the area in proximity to the receiving well, the total usage in proximity to the receiving well, and other factors that would increase the rate of consumptive use in the area of the receiving well in making its decision.

See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule. See especially "Transfers", page 20, Part VI; TM-25.

RULE 12: OFFSETS

The Board may establish Offsets as fees for the transfer of allocations or as part of establishing and operating a District Water Banking program.

See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related in this Rule.

RULE 13: GROUNDWATER QUALITY

The Board shall implement procedures to monitor and protect the quality of the aquifers underlying the District. All areas in the District shall be considered as Phase I areas until at least September 1, 2003. *See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule. See especially "Groundwater Quality", pages 19, 20, & 21, Part VI; TM-25.*

RULE 14: MORATORIUM

- A. The Board having found that depletion of the groundwater supply in the Management Area is so excessive that the public interest cannot be protected solely through the implementation of the controls adopted pursuant to Subsection (7) of Section 46-656.25 R.R.S., no additional well permits, except as provided for in Paragraph C below, shall be issued within the Management Area for the period September 1, 2002 through August 31, 2003.
- B. Additional groundwater allocations may not be granted, except as provided for in Paragraph C below, within the Management Area for the period September 1, 2002 through August 31, 2003.
- C. The Board may, upon further deliberation, and notice and hearing, open designated areas of the District to additional well permits and allocations, subject to the application of a quantitative method for specifying allowable withdrawal for the area, total allocations granted for the area, and any additional withdrawals that may be allowed in the area, as specified by the quantitative method adopted by the Board. The adopted method shall consider estimates of the following factors for the area under consideration: allowable depletion; specific yield; the shape and dimensions of the spatial area under consideration for management purposes; average saturated thickness of the aquifer within the area; proportion of the saturated thickness the Board will allow to be depleted in 100 years; precipitation recharge; recharge from irrigation application; and the amount of recharge that is available for appropriation in the area.

See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule.

RULE 15: VARIANCES

The Board may grant variances from the strict application of these rules and regulations upon good

cause shown.

See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule.

RULE 16: PENALTIES

Any groundwater user found to be in violation of these rules and regulations may be required to cease and desist withdrawing groundwater until such time as he is in compliance.

See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule.

RULE 17: GENERAL ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS

The District shall enforce these rules and regulations in conformance with the General Enforcement Provisions set out in Part VI of the District Technical Manual (TM-25).

See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule. See especially "General Enforcement Provisions", page 22, Part VI TM-25.

RULE 18: FORMAL ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS

Formal Adjudicatory Hearings shall be conducted in conformance with the procedures set out in the District Technical Manual (TM-25).

See District Technical Manual for technical, administrative, procedural, regulatory, and other materials related to this Rule. See especially "Formal Adjudicatory Hearing", page 23, Part VI TM-25.

RULE 19: DISTRICT TECHNICAL MANUAL

Supplemental Rules and Regulations specified in Part VI of the District Technical Manual (TM-25) are incorporated into, and considered as an integral part of these rules and regulations and are applicable in concert with the rules and regulations specified herein as the Rules and Regulations for Groundwater Control of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District Management Area.

RULE 20: SEVERABILITY OF RULES

If any rule or any part of any rule herein and/or in the District Technical Manual shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions thereof.

Adopted this 2nd day of July 2002.

This amendment to Rules and Regulations for Groundwater Control of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District Management Area shall be effective commencing September 1, 2002.

UPPER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

By _____
Robert Ambrosek, Chairman

ATTEST:

UPPER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

TECHNICAL MANUAL

TM-25

**EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2002
IN CONCERT WITH
THE
RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR GROUNDWATER CONTROL
ORDER NO.25
OF THE
UPPER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
MANAGEMENT AREA**

Parts IV and VI Adopted by the Upper Republican Natural Resources District Board of Directors,
July 2, 2002

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**UPPER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
TECHNICAL MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
TM-25**

PART I

**LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICTS**

Section 2-3201: Natural Resources, Declaration of Intent.

The Legislature hereby recognises and declares that it is essential to the health and welfare of the people of the State of Nebraska to conserve, protect, develop and manage the natural resources of this state. The legislature further recognises the significant achievements that have been made in the conservation, protection, development and management of our natural resources and declares that the most efficient and economical method of accelerating these achievements is by creating natural resources districts encompassing all of the area of the state, as provided by this Act.

The Legislature further declares that the functions heretofore performed by Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Conservancy Districts, Watershed Districts, Advisory Watershed Improvement Boards and Watershed Planning Boards shall be consolidated and made functions for the Natural Resources Districts," and the governing boards of such districts and boards shall complete, before July 1, 1972, the necessary transfers and arrangements so that such boards may on that date, begin the operation of Natural Resources Districts, as provided by this Act.

This legislation created twenty-four Natural Resources Districts in the State of Nebraska. The initial twenty-four (now 23) NRD District boundaries were based on the approximate hydrologic boundaries of the recognised river basins of the State.

The Upper Republican Natural Resources District, which encompasses Dundy, Perkins, and Chase Counties, began operations on July 1, 1972. On that date, the District accepted the assets, liabilities, and obligations of the Dundy, Chase, and Perkins County Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

PART II
PURPOSE, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
OF THE
UPPER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Purpose

The Board of Directors of the URNRD recognise that the underground aquifer partially underlying the District is a laterally confined aquifer and that there have developed, and will continue to develop, conflicts among users. Such conflicts have been based on a steadily declining water table within the aquifer in the URNRD. Therefore, the actions of the Board become of utmost importance in protecting all uses of groundwater, which include domestic, agricultural, municipal, industrial, wildlife, and recreational uses, from unmanageable declines and from degradation in quality.

Goals

It is the goal of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District Board of Directors to extend groundwater reservoir life to the greatest extent practicable consistent with beneficial use of the groundwater and best management practices, and to protect the quality of the groundwater aquifers within the District boundaries.

The primary short-term goal of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District is to measure, monitor and allocate the groundwater resource within the District.

Objectives

One objective of the Board is to ascertain the amount of groundwater being withdrawn from the aquifer within the Management Area. A second objective is to reduce the amount of groundwater being withdrawn from the aquifer within the Management Area, relative to the amount that might be withdrawn if no restraints were imposed upon groundwater users. A third objective is continued monitoring of groundwater quality to ensure that the groundwater quality remains the same or is improved.

Information from monitoring of groundwater quality and use is to be used to set groundwater allocations so that the groundwater aquifer will be available for present and future generations. It is believed that reduced consumption of groundwater and protection of groundwater quality within the Management Area will result in a longer economic life for the aquifer and thereby, continued and enhanced prosperity will ensue.

PART III

GOVERNANCE OF THE URNRD

An eleven member Board of Directors governs the Upper Republican Natural Resources District. All eligible electors of the District may vote for Board Members at general elections. The District is divided into ten sub-districts. One Board Member is elected from each sub- district and one at-large member is elected.

Candidates for sub-district Board positions must reside in the sub-district for which they are elected. The at-large Board member must reside within the boundaries of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District. The Board of Directors will appoint an eligible person to fill any unexpired term.

Board Of Directors

The Board is responsible for establishing District policies, programs, rules and regulations, and adopting the necessary budget, in order to fulfil the responsibilities of the District as authorized and required by law. The Board is also responsible for overseeing management to insure that the policies, programs, regulations, and budget are carried out as intended, and for approving District expenditures. The day-to-day management is the General Manager's responsibility. In general, the Board sets policy and the staff carries it out.

The Board holds regularly scheduled monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, at which time the Board shall take action and make determinations as necessary and required by law. These meeting shall comply with the Open Meetings Law, and each Director shall receive a copy of meeting notices and agendas.

A majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, and the concurrence of a majority of the Directors present at any regular or special meeting at which such quorum is present shall constitute official action of the entire Board. If less than a quorum is present at a meeting, no official action shall be taken, and the presiding officer shall adjourn the meeting. If a quorum cannot convene for any reason, the General Manager shall have the authority to approve recurring bills and salaries, and forward them to the District Treasurer for his or her signature, as funds are available in the District treasury.

Each Director present at regular or special meetings shall be entitled to one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote, including the chairman if he chooses to vote. The Board shall follow Robert's Rules of Order in conducting District business. Action taken on any question or motion, duly moved and seconded, shall be by roll call vote of the Board in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted, or if the member was absent or abstaining.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

Officers of the Board shall include Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers of the Board are elected by majority vote of Board members present.

The officers shall hold office for a one (1) year term and until his/her successor has been duly elected and qualified, or until he/she vacates the office due to death, disability resignation, relocation, removal, or other disqualification. A vacancy in any office on the Board due to death, disability, resignation, removal, or other disqualification shall be filled by election of the Board for the unexpired term of the office.

Duties

- A. Chairperson shall be the principal officer of the Board and subject to the control of the Board. The Chair shall be empowered to make non-policy decisions between meetings in carrying out the works, policies, and intents of the District. He/she will preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. He/she may sign, with any proper officer, any agreements, contracts, or other instruments, which the board has authorized to be executed. Exceptions would be in cases when the signing and execution shall be expressly delegated by the District Board, or by the bylaws, to some other officer of the Board, or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed and executed. The Chairman shall perform all duties incident to the office of chairman, and the Board may prescribe such other duties as.
- B. Vice Chairperson, in the absence of the Chairperson or in the event of his inability to act, shall perform the duties of the Chairperson. When so acting, he will have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions upon, the Chairperson. The vice-chairperson shall perform other duties from time to time that may be assigned to him/her by the Chairperson or by the Board.
- C. Secretary- Treasurer shall keep the minutes of the Board, see that all notices are given in accordance with Board policies or as required by law. In general, the incumbent will perform all the duties incident to the office of Secretary-Treasurer and such other duties from time to time that may be assigned to him by the Chairperson or by the Board. He/she shall keep an accurate account of all funds received and expended by the District, be bonded in the amount required by statutes, and see that all approved bills payable are paid and receipts received, and be empowered to sign checks on the District's account to retire approved bills and debts of the District.

In case of temporary absence of any officer for any reason that the Board may deem sufficient, the Board may delegate the powers and duties of such officer to any other officer, or to any other Director of the Board, for the time of the temporary absence, provided a majority of the Board concurs.

Committee Responsibilities

Committee Responsibilities are divided into different sections represented by five standing Board Committees. The Executive Committee shall appoint membership to the other four standing committees. The committees shall have and exercise duties in the best interests of the District. The committees have individual responsibilities of overseeing District functions and activities and making recommendations to the Board of Directors as necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the District. The Chairperson or the Board, may, from time to time, assign additional duties to specific committees.

- A. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee, consisting of the Chairperson, The Vice- Chairperson, and the Secretary- Treasurer, is responsible for Board organization, functions, ethics, and discipline. The Committee oversees personnel (including salary, wages, and benefits), buildings, and equipment needs, as well as general management of the District, and makes recommendations to the Board regarding these responsibilities.
- B. Budget Committee: The Budget Committee oversees the financial management and long range planning of the District. The annual budget of all the District's activities are reviewed and approved by this Committee which then makes recommendations to the Board, prior to Board consideration of approval of the budget.
- C. Variance Committee: The Variance Committee meets with all individuals who request a variance from the rules and regulations of the Board. The Committee reports to the Board at a Regular Board meeting. The variance requests are reviewed by the Board and placed on the agenda for the next Regular Board meeting for decision.
 - 1. All information for a variance request should be brought to the NRD Office at Imperial and discussed with the Manager.
 - 2. The Manager will distribute all information concerning the variance to the Variance Committee, all other Board members, and person(s) requesting the variance.
 - 3. The Variance Committee will meet with person(s) requesting a variance at the time set by the Manager to hear the variance request.
 - 4. The Variance Committee will report to the Board at a regular or special Board meeting the information received for the variance requested.
 - 5. The variance request will be voted on at the next regular Board meeting. At that time the Variance Committee will make a recommendation to the Board concerning the variance request.
- D. Groundwater Control Committee: The Groundwater Control Committee reviews all information received from the staff, and state and federal agencies. The Committee

Make recommendations to the full Board on needed studies and research projects; amendments to the Groundwater Control Rules and Regulations; date, time, and place to hold information meetings and public hearings; and material that should be made available to the public at information meetings and public hearings.

- E. Education and Information Committee: The Committee oversees both the education and information dissemination activities of the Board, which include the following: habitat, tree planting, public relations, education, and informing the public of District activities.

Standing Committee Membership

Executive Committee **Committee**

Robert Ambrosek, Chairman
Chairman
Greg Pelster, Vice Chairman
Kenneth E. Owens, Secretary/Treasurer

Information and Education

Jerry Kuenning,

Mike Mosel
Gwen Springer
Floyd Parman

Budget Committee **Committee**

Donn Gengenbach, Chairman
Chairman
Kenny Frasier
Kenneth E. Owens

Variance

Kenny Owens,

Kurt Bernhardt
Donn Gengenbach

Jerry Kuenning

Greg Pelster

Groundwater Control Committee

Greg Pelster, Chairman
Kurt Bernhardt
Dean Large
Floyd Parman

Upper Republican NRD Staff

Imperial Office

308-882-5173

Bob Hipple, Manager
Debra Hayes, Administrative Assistant
Mike Nesbitt, Conservation Programs Coordinator
Mike Smith, Water Programs Coordinator
Heather Francis, Conservation & Information Specialist
John Lemon, Conservation Technician

Christy Colson, Water Quality Conservation Technician

URNRD Field Office Secretaries

Located in NRCS Offices
Rebecca Spady, Imperial 308-882-4263
Patricia Clough, Grant 308-352-4776
Wilma Zimbelman, Benkelman 308-424-2696

PART IV

**CONVERSION TABLES
And
ANNUAL ALLOWABLE WITHDRAWAL FORMULA**

WATER EQUIVALENTS

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1-acre-foot | 325,850 gallons |
| 1 acre-inch | 27, 154 gallons |
| 1 acre-foot covers 1 acre of land 1 foot deep | |
| 1 acre-inch covers 1 acre of land 1 inch deep | |
| 10.833 acre-feet | 1 in./ac. on 130 acres |
| 157.08 acre-feet | 14.5 in./ac. on 130 acres |
| 98.05 hr. @ 600 gpm | 1 in./ac. on 130 acres |
| 73.54 hr. @ 800 gpm | 1 in./ac. on 130 acres |
| 58.83 hr. @ 1000 gpm | 1 in./ac. on 130 acres |

ANIMAL UNIT EQUIVALENTS

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Slaughter Steer/Heifer | 1.0 |
|------------------------|-----|

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Cow --1000 Pounds | 1.0 |
| Dairy Cow | 1.4 |
| Cow/Calf Pair | 1.4 |
| Sheep (Ewe) | 0.1 |
| Swine- -Under 55 pounds | 0.05 |
| Swine --Over 55 pounds | 0.4 |
| Horse --{Medium Size) | 1.0 |

ANNUAL ALLOWABLE WITHDRAWAL FORMULA

In the evaluation of the Annual Allowable Withdrawal for any purpose, the following three-mile radius circle formula shall be used:

$$A = \frac{640(D)(S.Y.) 3.1416 R^2 H}{(1.0 - I_r)t} + \frac{640(f)(Pr) 3.1416 R^2}{12(1.0 - I_r)}$$

where,

A = Annual allowable withdrawal within the circle being evaluated in
acre-feet per year

D = Allowable depletion (expressed as a decimal)

S.Y. = Specific yield (dimensionless)

R = Radius of circle (miles)

H = Average saturated thickness within the circle (feet)

t = Time period during which depletion, **D**, occurs (years)

Pr = Precipitation recharge (inches/yr.)

f = Fraction of **Pr** that is available for appropriation in the circle (dimensionless)

I_r = Fraction of **A** that returns to the aquifer as deep percolation, i.e., irrigation return
(dimensionless)

The constants in the above equation are:

$$D = 0.25, R = 3 \text{ miles}, t = 100 \text{ years}, f = 0.2 \text{ and } I_r = 0.15$$

Saturated thickness, H, shall be determined by evaluation of the 3 year average contour maps developed

from spring well measurements conducted by the NRD as well as other pertinent available water level data.

Specific yield, S.Y., and **Precipitation Recharge, Pr**, will be determined from Figure 19, page 34 and

Figure 20, Page 40, respectively, “**Simulated Response of the High Plains Aquifer to Ground-Water Withdrawals, Upper Republican Natural Resources District, Nebraska,**” Water-Resources Investigations Report 95-4014, USGS, 1995, as well as other pertinent available water level data.

This formula was developed by the State of Colorado and is available in the publication:

**RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL
OF DESIGNATED GROUND WATER**

2 CCR 410-1

Effective Date: May 1, 1992 - Amended: March 30, 1995 - Re-amended: April 1, 1997
Re-amended: February 1, 2001

**STATE OF COLORADO
GROUND WATER COMMISSION**

Hal D. Simpson
Executive Director
1313 Sherman Street
Denver, Colorado 80203

Definitions - Unless expressly stated otherwise the following terms when used in these Rules shall have the meaning indicated in this Rule.

“Allowed Average Annual Amount of Withdrawal” means the average amount of water in acre-feet that a permittee may withdraw from a well in a calendar year.

“Saturated Aquifer Material(s)” means those aquifer materials containing sufficient water that can be drained by gravity and placed to beneficial use.

“Specific Yield” means the volume of water which can be drained by gravity from a saturated volume of aquifer material divided by the volume of material. This ratio can be expressed as a percentage.

“Three-Mile Circle” or “Circle” means a circle with a radius of three miles centered at the location of the well or proposed well used to appropriate water from the Highplains Aquifer.

An Example Calculation using the AAW Formula to solve for -

**A = Annual allowable withdrawal within the circle being evaluated in
acre-feet per year**

where,

D = .25 Allowable depletion (expressed as a decimal)
S.Y. = 0.2 Specific yield (dimensionless)
R = 3 Radius of circle (miles)
H = 200 Average saturated thickness within the circle (feet)
t = 100 Time period during which depletion, D, occurs (years)
Pr = 2 Precipitation recharge (inches/yr.)

- f = 0.2 Fraction of Pr that is available for appropriation in the circle (dimensionless)**
- Ir = 0.15 Fraction of A that returns to the aquifer as deep percolation, i.e., irrigation return (dimensionless)**

$$A = \frac{640(D)(S.Y.) 3.1416 R^2 H}{(1.0 - Ir)t} + \frac{640(f)(Pr) 3.1416 R^2}{12(1.0 - Ir)}$$

$$A = \frac{(640)(.25)(0.2)(3.1416)(3^2)(200)}{(1.0 - 0.15)100} + \frac{(640)(0.2)(2)(3.1416)(3^2)}{12(1.0 - 0.15)}$$

$$A = \frac{(904.78)(200)}{85} + \frac{804.25(9)}{10.2}$$

A = 2838.53 Acre Feet of annual allowable withdrawal

This number is compared to the total acre feet of allocated water for all the Certified Irrigated Acres contained within the circle as part of the evaluation of the impact of any proposed transfers or other water management techniques.

PART V

PROPOSED RULES

Proposed Rule 1

BANKING

The Board hereby authorizes the establishment of a groundwater bank to facilitate the transfer of groundwater for beneficial uses within the District. No deposits or withdrawals will be allowed until September 1, 200X.

A. Definition:

1. **Account** shall mean the right-to-use all or a portion of an allocation held in the Bank in the name of a particular entity.
2. **Bank** is the institutional entity operated by the Upper Republican Natural Resources District with authority to hold and distribute rights-to-use allocations that have been deposited.
3. **Deposit** shall mean the right-to-use all or a portion of an allocation that has been removed from a groundwater user's allocation for a use to be facilitated by the Bank.
4. **Offset** shall mean the amount of groundwater deducted from a Deposit prior to withdrawal and held in the account of the District for conservation or other purposes

5. **Withdrawal** shall mean removal of a deposit for use by the groundwater user that deposited the same, or by another groundwater user with the consent of the depositor and the Bank.

B. Operation of the Bank

1. Groundwater users having unused groundwater allocation, whether granted for irrigation, commercial livestock, industrial or municipal purposes, may deposit the right-to-use same in the Bank by designating in acre- feet the amount to be deposited.
2. Withdrawals of groundwater from the Bank must be designated in acre- feet and be withdrawn only by an authorized user.
3. The District shall operate the Bank.
4. Deposits must be accepted and withdrawals must be approved by the Board prior to implementation.
5. Variances may be granted by the Board to facilitate approved withdrawals.
6. All offsets shall be held in the account of the District for retirement, conservation or other uses.
7. Records of deposits and withdrawals shall be maintained by the District and shall be available to the public.

C. Offsets

Upon further deliberation, and notice and hearing, the Board may require offsets of groundwater, expressed in acre-feet, to be deducted from deposits prior to withdrawals and held in the account of the District pursuant the following principles:

1. Withdrawals for use on the same Certified Irrigated Tract, as defined herein, shall not be subject to offset.
2. Withdrawals for use by the person that made the deposit, or with the consent of that person, on lands not contiguous but within a one-mile radius shall be subject to an offset of up to 5%.
3. Withdrawals for use by the person that made the deposit, or with the consent of that person, on lands not contiguous but within a three-mile radius shall be subject to an offset of up to 10%.
4. Withdrawals for use by the person that made the deposit, or with the consent of that person, on lands not contiguous and outside the three mile radius shall be subject to an offset of up to 10% plus up to 1% for each mile beyond said three mile radius.
5. In addition to the offset imposed by the distance of the withdrawal, additional offsets may be imposed as follows:

- a. When the saturated thickness of the aquifer at the point of withdrawal is less than the saturated thickness of the aquifer at the point of deposit, an offset of up to 5% for each 20 feet of difference in saturated thickness, or part thereof, shall be imposed.
 - b. Withdrawals for use in Critical Townships of deposits from Non-Critical Townships shall be subject to an additional offset of up to 25%.
 - c. Withdrawals for industrial or manufacturing use of deposits of irrigation, commercial livestock, or municipal allocations shall be subject to an additional offset of up to 20%.
6. All offsets shall be determined by the Board.

PART VI

SUPPLEMENTAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Supplemental Rule 2

FLOWMETERS

{See also Rules and Regulations (R&R), especially Rule 2 "Flowmeters", page 4, R&R}

- A. All wells requiring District permits shall be equipped with flowmeters before being placed in operation, in accordance with the following specifications.
 1. Definitions of terms:

- (a) Meter- Shall mean a mechanical or sensor device that measures and totalizes the amount of water flowing from a well.
 - (b) Manufacturer -Shall means the company that produces meters for the supplier or dealer.
 - (c) Supplier or Dealer -Shall mean the company that sells or provides meters to installer, groundwater user, or District.
 - (d) Installer -Shall mean the company or groundwater user that installs meters on the groundwater user's irrigation equipment.
 - (e) Pipe -Shall mean any material capable of transporting water.
- B. Meters installed under these specifications shall comply with the applicable provisions of American National Standards Institute, American Water Works Association's standard number C704-70.
- C. Each meter shall be installed and calibrated to pipe size.
- D. Flowmeters shall be of the velocity propeller or sensor type, and made of noncorrosive materials
- E. The meter registry shall have a visual volume recording totalizer, which shall record in acre-feet, acre- inches, or gallons.
- F. The registry shall be protected from the elements. Totalizers shall have sufficient capacity to record for the period of one year the quantity of water diverted from each well. Totalizers shall be direct reading and the multiplier shall be clearly indicated in which the rate of flow can be determined by timing.
- G. The meter shall have a rated accuracy of plus or minus two (2) percent of actual flow within the range of flow for which the meter is designed. The meter shall be capable of accurately registering the expected operating range of discharge.
- H. The meter shall have a pressure rating to fit the application used within its designed pressure range.
- I. The meter size, serial number and the direction of flow shall be clearly stamped on the body of the meter. The inside pipe diameter for which the meter has been calibrated shall be clearly shown on the meter to the nearest 0.001 of an inch.
- J. The meter shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and in such manner that there will be a full pipe flow of water at all times while water is being measured.
- K. The meter shall be placed in the pipe not less than five pipe diameters downstream from any valve, elbow or other obstructions, which might create turbulent flow or as, recommended by the manufacturer. There shall also be at least one pipe diameter of unobstructed flow on the downstream side of the meter.
- L. The meter propeller shaft shall be positioned parallel to and aligned with the centerline of the pipe.
- M. Diversions from wells connected to serve multiple points of use shall not be made prior to the water

passing through the meter for the individual wells. Wells with diversions before the meter in place and connected to serve multiple points of use, shall be modified no later than April 1, 2003 to comply with this rule.

- N. Meters should be kept clear of debris other material, which might impede operation.
- O. When meters are removed for servicing or replacement, records of meter readings should be kept.
- P. It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully injure, alter, remove, reset, adjust, manipulate, obstruct, or in any manner interfere with or tamper with any flowmeter within the Management Area for the purpose or with the intent to produce an incorrect, inaccurate or misleading measurement, without District consent, or to cause, procure or direct any other person to do so.
- Q. The District staff shall periodically check flowmeters on a random basis for reading and proper operation. The District staff may seal all flowmeters within the Management Area. The District will notify the groundwater user in advance that it intends to enter upon his land for such purposes. No seal shall be removed without prior approval of the District.
- R. Any malfunctioning flowmeter must be reported to the District Office at Imperial, Nebraska, within Twenty-four (24) hours after discovery. During the malfunctioning period, a substitute meter from the District, if available, shall be used to determine water consumption. If no such meter is available, any reasonable method of determining water consumption may be utilized.
- S. The District may require any groundwater user to provide information that will enable the District Staff to determine the amount of energy used to operate any well on which a meter is required. The groundwater user shall provide such information, or the groundwater user shall authorize the District Staff to procure such information from the entity, which provided such power. The District Staff shall seek such information in the event a flowmeter is malfunctioning, or if either the owner or operator or the District Staff has reason to believe the flowmeter reading is incorrect. If any power source on any well within the groundwater management area is equipped with an hour meter, the District may require the groundwater user to provide appropriate readings from said hour meter.

Supplemental Rule 3

IRRIGATED ACRES AND TRACTS

{See also Rules and Regulations (R&R), especially Rule 3 "Irrigated Acres and Tracts", page 4, R&R..}

The following regulation applies to the determination, identification and certification of Certified Irrigated Acres and Certified Irrigated Tracts.

- A. The number of Certified Irrigated Acres belonging to or under the control of groundwater users who were irrigating their lands prior to May 1, 1978, shall be the number of acres irrigated by such groundwater user during 1977, or the average number of acres irrigated during the years 1972 through 1976, whichever is greater.

- B. The number of Certified Irrigated Acres for lands placed under irrigation after May 1, 1978, shall be determined by the Board at a public meeting after consideration of the following criteria.
1. Local F.S.A. records, if available.
 2. County Assessors records, if available.
 3. Suitable aerial photographs.
 4. Evidence adduced by the groundwater user or the District at any public meeting of the Board.
- C. Certified Irrigated Tracts shall be identified by government survey descriptions. In all cases the description of each groundwater user's irrigated tract, or tracts, as contained in any recorded deed, or lease, shall be definitive.
- D. No Certified Irrigated Tract may exceed 640 contiguous acres.

Supplemental Rule 4

CRITICAL TOWNSHIPS

{See also Rules and Regulations (R&R), especially Rule 4 "Critical Townships", page 4, R&R.}

- A. The saturated thickness of the aquifer shall be the average saturated thickness of the aquifer for the three-year period ending with spring observation and March continuous recorder well groundwater level measurements throughout the Management Area. The groundwater table shall be determined by averaging the annual groundwater measurement for the three-year period ending with spring observation and March continuous recorder well measurements. Computations made shall be made by the "water level contouring procedure". Continuous recorder well shall mean a well installed for continuous recording of groundwater levels; and an observation well shall mean an irrigation, domestic, industrial, or other well measured for groundwater table changes by the District each spring and fall.
- B. On September 1, 2002, the following Townships are designated, or remain designated as critical:

| Dundy County | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---|----------------------------|
| <u>Township North</u> | <u>Range West</u> | <u>Date Designated or Re-Designated</u> | <u>Minimum Period Ends</u> |
| 1 | 37 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 1 | 38 | 1998 | 2003 |
| 1 | 39 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 2 | 36 | 2000 | 2005 |
| 2 | 37 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 2 | 38 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 2 | 39 | 1998 | 2003 |
| 2 | 40 | 1999 | 2004 |

| | | | |
|---|----|------|------|
| 2 | 41 | 1999 | 2004 |
| 2 | 42 | 1999 | 2004 |
| 3 | 37 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 3 | 38 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 3 | 39 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 3 | 40 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 3 | 41 | 1999 | 2004 |
| 3 | 42 | 1999 | 2004 |
| 4 | 36 | 1998 | 2003 |
| 4 | 37 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 4 | 38 | 2002 | 2007 |

Dundy County

| <u>Township North</u> | <u>Range West</u> | <u>Date Designated or Re-Designated</u> | <u>Minimum Period Ends</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 4 | 39 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 4 | 40 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 4 | 41 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 4 | 42 | 1998 | 2003 |

Chase County

| <u>Township North</u> | <u>Range West</u> | <u>Date Designated or Re-Designated</u> | <u>Minimum Period Ends</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 5 | 37 | 1999 | 2004 |
| 5 | 38 | 2000 | 2005 |
| 5 | 39 | 1999 | 2004 |
| 5 | 40 | 1999 | 2004 |
| 5 | 41 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 5 | 42 | 1998 | 2003 |
| 6 | 37 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 6 | 38 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 6 | 39 | 2000 | 2005 |
| 6 | 40 | 1999 | 2004 |
| 6 | 41 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 6 | 42 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 7 | 36 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 7 | 37 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 7 | 38 | 2000 | 2005 |
| 7 | 39 | 1999 | 2004 |
| 7 | 40 | 1998 | 2003 |
| 7 | 41 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 7 | 42 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 8 | 36 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 8 | 37 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 8 | 38 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 8 | 39 | 2000 | 2005 |
| 8 | 40 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 8 | 41 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 8 | 42 | 2002 | 2007 |

Perkins County

| <u>Township North</u> | <u>Range West</u> | <u>Date Designated or Re-Designated</u> | <u>Minimum Period Ends</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 9 | 35 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 9 | 36 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 9 | 37 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 9 | 38 | 1998 | 2003 |
| 9 | 39 | 1998 | 2003 |
| 9 | 40 | 2002 | 2007 |

Perkins County

| <u>Township North</u> | <u>Range West</u> | <u>Date Designated or Re-Designated</u> | <u>Minimum Period Ends</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 10 | 37 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 10 | 38 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 10 | 39 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 10 | 40 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 10 | 41 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 11 | 37 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 11 | 38 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 11 | 39 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 11 | 40 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 11 | 41 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 12 | 35 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 12 | 36 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 12 | 37 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 12 | 38 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 12 | 39 | 2001 | 2006 |
| 12 | 40 | 2002 | 2007 |
| 12 | 41 | 2000 | 2005 |

Supplemental Rule 5

WELL SPACING

{See also Rules and Regulations (R&R), especially Rule 5 "Well Spacing", page 5, R&R.}

The following regulation applies to the spacing of all wells subject to these rules and regulations and receiving permits from the Upper Republican Natural Resources District.

(PLEASE SEE TABLE ON NEXT P AGE FOR DETAILS)

Supplemental Rule 9

ALLOCATIONS OF GROUNDWATER

{See also Rules and Regulations (R&R), especially Rule 9 "Allocations of Groundwater" pages 7 & 8, R&R.. }

A. A basic allocation of 72.5 acre inches per Certified Irrigated Acre shall be granted for the 5-year allocation period.

1. The amount of carryforward for each Certified Irrigated Tract shall be determined on December 31, of the last year of the allocation period.

2. The carryforward so determined may be used by the groundwater user owning or controlling the irrigated tract in any manner not otherwise prohibited by these rules and regulations.

3. Certified Acres irrigated by wells in service for the entire allocation period shall receive the basic allocation.

4. Certified Acres irrigated by wells drilled and equipped after commencement of the allocation period

shall receive a reduced allocation. The reduction shall be computed as follows:

a. The basic allocation shall be divided by the number of calendar years in the allocation period.

b. Acres irrigated by wells drilled and equipped prior to July 1 of any calendar year during the allocation period shall not receive an allocation for any prior year, but shall receive a full allocation for that year.

c. Acres irrigated by wells drilled and equipped between July 1 and August 31 of any calendar year in the allocation period shall not receive an allocation for any prior year and shall receive one-half of that year's allocation.

d. Acres irrigated by wells drilled and equipped after August 31 of any calendar year during the allocation period shall not receive an allocation for any prior year, nor for that year.

B. Acres being removed from the Federal Conservation Reserve program shall be granted the carryforward allocated to the acres at the time of enrollment, provided:

1. Such acres were equipped to be irrigated at the time they were enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program.

2. Upon removal from the Conservation Reserve Program such acres shall then be considered as acres

becoming first irrigated on the day said acres are re-equipped to be irrigated, and an allocation for

the remaining portion of the relevant allocation period shall be determined.

C. The carryforward so determined may be used by the groundwater user owning or controlling the irrigated tract in any manner not otherwise prohibited by these rules and regulations.

D. Each municipality using groundwater withdrawn from the Management Area is hereby granted without further application, an allocation of groundwater for each calendar year beginning with 1988,

computed as follows:

1. An allocation of gallons equal to the number produced by multiplying the population of the municipality as determined by the most recent Federal Census by 91,250; and

2. An additional allocation of acre inches stated in gallons equal to the number produced by multiplying one third (1/3) of the non-agricultural acres of land within the municipality by the annualized allocation for irrigated acres as stated in Paragraph A. Each municipality shall report the total number of non-agricultural acres within its limits to the Board at the time of any annexation or elimination of territory to or from its limits.

E. For every flowmeter under the ownership or control of each groundwater user, the District Staff shall take the final meter reading no sooner than September 15, and not later than December 31, of the same year on forms provided by the District. In addition, the District shall make random year-end meter readings as well as spot checks during the irrigation season. The District will, after year-end readings, notify each groundwater user of the amount of water withdrawn during the foregoing year and the amount of carryforward and allocation remaining.

Supplemental Rule 11

TRANSFERS

{See also Rules and Regulations (R&R). especially Rule 11 "Transfers", page 9, R&R}

Transfers of allocations from a Tract or for a use for which the same has been granted to another tract or use may be accomplished only under the following conditions:

A. The tracts must be under the ownership or control of the same groundwater user except as provided for in Rule 12, Order No.25. No transfer may occur without the knowledge and consent of the owners of all lands involved, including any lands over which the groundwater is transported.

B. Groundwater allocations in non-critical townships may not be transferred to tracts within Critical Townships.

Supplemental Rule 13

GROUND WATER QUALITY

{See also Rules and Regulations (R&R), especially Rule 13 "Groundwater Quality", page 9, R&R. }

Definitions:

- A. Contamination or Contamination of Groundwater shall mean nitrates or other material that enter the ground water due to action of any person and cause degradation of the quality of ground water sufficient to make such ground water unsuitable for present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial uses.
- B. Subirrigation or Subirrigated Land shall mean the natural occurrence of a ground water table within the root zone of agricultural vegetation, not exceeding ten feet below the surface of the ground.
- C. Best Management Practices shall mean schedules of activities, maintenance, procedures, and other management practices utilized to prevent or reduce present and future contamination of ground water which may include irrigation scheduling, proper timing of fertilizer and pesticide application and other fertilizer and pesticide management programs.
- D. Point Source shall mean any discernible, confined and discreet conveyance, including, but not limited to, any pipe, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, vessel, other floating craft, or other conveyance, over which the Department of Environmental Quality has regulatory authority and from which a substance which can cause or contribute to contamination of ground water is being or may be discharged.
- E. Rotation shall mean a recurring series of use and non-use of an irrigation well on an hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly basis.
- E. Phase I shall mean all areas within the District in which levels of nitrate nitrogen contamination, or any contaminant harmful to health or the environment is 0% to 40% of, the allowable level as determined by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. On the effective date of this Order the entire territory of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District is Phase I.
- G. Phase II shall mean all areas within the District boundaries so designated by the Board in which levels of nitrate nitrogen contamination, or any contaminant harmful to health or the environment, are over 40%, but less than 60%, of the allowable level as determined by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Phase II areas shall be designated only after dissemination to the public the boundaries of such proposed areas and the rules and regulations pertaining thereto and the conduct of one or more public information meetings followed by a

public hearing after which the Board may designate Phase II areas of not less than 6 square miles with rules and regulations pertaining to ground water quality in such areas.

H. Phase III shall mean all areas within the District boundaries so designated by the Board in which levels of nitrate nitrogen contamination, or any contaminant harmful to health or the environment are

60%, or over, of the allowable level as determined by the Nebraska Department of Environmental

Quality. Phase III areas shall be designated only after dissemination to the public of the boundaries of

such proposed areas and the rules and regulations pertaining thereto and the conduct of one or more

public information meetings followed by a public hearing after which the Board may designate Phase III areas of not less than 6 square miles with rules and regulations pertaining to ground water

quality in such areas.

I. Certified Laboratory shall mean any laboratory within or outside the State of Nebraska certified and approved by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

J. Ground Water Quality Controls shall mean the rules and regulations which may be proposed or adopted for ground water quality and based on the three (3) phase program defined above.

K. Chemical means any fertilizer, fungicide, herbicide, or pesticide mixed with the water supply.

L. Fertilizer means any formulation or product used as a plant nutrient, which is distributed on lands in the District, and/or intended to promote plant growth, and contains one or more plant nutrients recognized by the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials in its official publications.

Implementation Processes and Procedures:

Deep soil testing, ground water well testing and standard soil sampling will be used to determine contaminant levels throughout the district and to determine the geographic and stratigraphic boundaries of any territory for which controls for ground water quality may be proposed.

A. Controls, rules, and regulations that may be proposed for ground water quality will be based on a three-phase program. Phase I shall include all territory in which levels of nitrate nitrogen contamination, or any contaminant harmful to health or the environment, are 0% to 40% of the allowable level as determined by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Phase II shall include all territory in which levels of nitrate nitrogen contamination, or any contaminant harmful to health or the environment is over 40%, but less than 60%, of the allowable level as determined by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Phase III shall include all territory in which levels of nitrate nitrogen contamination, or any contaminants harmful to health or the environment, is 60%, or over, of the allowable level as determined by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

B. In Phase I territories yearly monitoring ground water samples will be conducted by the District.

- C. When it is determined by the District, or there is reasonable cause to believe that the identified contamination is point source contamination; the District will request the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to make a determination if the contamination is point source.
- D. The District will take ground water and deep soil samples to determine whether ground water is contaminated. Ground water samples will be taken in not less than fifty (50) locations throughout the District. If a particular sample indicates contamination in excess of the levels established for Phase II or Phase III, the District will take a minimum of twelve (12) additional ground water samples in a radius of three (3) miles or the identified contamination. The District will make a map of the subject area divided into four (4) equal areas from the location of the ground water sample source, which shows contamination. The total area of said map would be approximately 6 miles square. Should 25% of the not less than twelve (12) samples taken indicate contamination of more than 40% of the allowable level as determined by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, the subject shall become designated a Phase II area. Should 25% of the not less than twelve (12) samples taken indicate contamination of 60%, or more of the allowable level as determined by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, the subject shall become designated a Phase III area. If villages, cities or towns lie in the said three- (3) mile radius, the water samples shall be taken the municipal wells as one of the required twelve (12) samples.
- E. The District will initiate education programs for ground water users regarding non-point and point source pollution.
- F. The District will initiate a ground water quality study which will include deep soil testing, ground water sampling to identify types of contamination, identification of the best management practices to control contamination, and other research as funds become available.
- G. In Phase II areas the District may:
1. Require ground water users to take nitrate nitrogen and irrigation management training and education.
 2. Implement irrigation scheduling.
 3. Require ground water users to limit commercial fertilizer applications to University of Nebraska published recommendations.
 4. Require that soil samples be taken to determine nitrates remaining in the soil at 1, 2 and 3 foot levels.
 5. Require nitrogen application use be reported to the District on forms to be provided.
 6. Require all types of commercial fertilizer use to be reported to the District on forms to be provided
- H. In Phase III areas the District may:
1. Implement any rule, regulation or control authorized for Phase II areas.
 2. Restrict the use of fall and winter application of commercial nitrogen fertilizers in designated fields

for spring planted crops unless inhibitors approved by the District are used in conjunction with such applications.

3. Implement other restrictions on chemical use as determined necessary or advisable by investigations, studies, or research.

I. All Areas in the District are considered as Phase I areas at least until September 1, 2003.

Supplemental Rule 17 GENERAL ENFORCEMENT PROVISION

{See also Rules and Regulations (R&R), especially Rule 17 "General Enforcement Provisions", page 10, R&R.}

The District shall enforce the provisions of the Groundwater Management and Protection Act, and all rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto by the issuance of cease and desist orders and by bringing, or defending, appropriate actions in the district court of the county in which any violations occur for enforcement of such orders. Cease and desist orders may be issued for any violation of any rule or regulation of the District.

- A. Any person within the District, or the Board on its own motion, may file a written complaint. Complaints shall be filed at the District office, 135 West 5th Street, Imperial, Nebraska. 69033.
- B. The District shall investigate the alleged violation. Upon completion of the investigation, the District Staff shall file a report with the Board and deliver copies of the report to the alleged violator and to the complainant, if other than the Board, in person, or shall transmit the same by certified mail.
- C. If the District staff finds there is reasonable cause to believe that a groundwater user is at the time of investigation, or was at the time complained of, in violation of District rules and regulations, then said report shall be accompanied by a formal notice of the alternative actions available to the alleged violator. Alternative actions available to the person complained against shall be:
 1. Agree with and accept as true and correct the District staffs findings that the alleged violation has in fact occurred or is occurring, consent to cease and desist from continuing or allowing the reoccurrence of such violation, and submit a plan and schedule of compliance. The District shall determine whether the plan and schedule will bring that user into compliance with District rules and regulations. If the Board determines that the proposed plan and schedule are adequate, it shall approve such plan and schedule of compliance.
 2. Reject the findings of the report, and within 30 days request a formal adjudicatory hearing.
- D. The Board shall notify the person filing the complaint of any action. If no objections to the action of the Board are received, the action of the Board on the written complaint shall be considered as final.

- E. If the person filing the complaint objects to the Board action, he may within 30 days of the Board action, request a formal adjudicatory hearing.
- F. An official record shall be made of the formal adjudicatory hearing requested by the alleged violator, by the complainant, or by the Board on its own motion. The Board shall deliberate the record and take action on the issue. The recourse to Board action by either the complainant or the alleged violator is by appeal with the district court
- G. When an alleged violator has been notified of Board action and such alleged violator has failed to respond thereunder, or has failed to appear at any properly scheduled formal adjudicatory hearing, the Board shall:
 - 1. Review the complaint and the report, as well as any other pertinent information; and
 - 2. Issue such order or orders in accordance with these rules and regulations, as it deems appropriate.

Supplemental Rule 18 FORMAL ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS

{See also Rules and Regulations (R&R), especially Rule 18 "Formal Adjudicatory Hearings", page 10, R&R.}

- A. Formal Adjudicatory Hearings will be conducted by the District for the following purposes:
 - 1. Any purpose set out in the Rules and Regulations of the District or in the Technical Manual, which is in effect in concert therewith.
 - 2. From an adverse decision on a request for variance when judicial review will be sought by the applicant for said variance.
 - 3. To resolve disputes between groundwater users or others, pertaining to illegal irrigation groundwater run off or any other dispute on a majority vote by the Board of Directors.
 - 4. Prior to the issuance of a cease and desist order on a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- B. Any groundwater user aggrieved by any action of the District may request a formal adjudicatory hearing within 30 days of the action complained of.
- C. A hearing examiner shall conduct formal hearings. The presence of Board members shall not be required at any hearing. The hearing examiner shall be a person deemed to be knowledgeable in the procedures set out in these rules and regulations and shall conduct the hearing in a manner that provides fairness to all parties.
- D. The District shall prepare a notice setting the time and place of the formal hearing.
- E. The Board may grant continuances and the Board may at any time order a continuance on its own Motion.

- F. The Board may require stipulations on procedure to define the issues, or for any purpose designed to expedite the matter or to insure substantial due process or fairness.
- G. Ordinarily, opening statements and/or oral arguments following the close of the presentation of evidence will be permitted only insofar as such statements and/or arguments relate to the presentation and explanation of evidence.
- H. Submission of briefs may be requested or permitted by the Board
- I. An official record of any official hearing conducted pursuant to statute or the rules and regulations of the Board shall be preserved in the official taken at the hearing. Such records shall include all testimony and exhibits presented at the hearing. Such record shall whenever possible be kept by a court reporter to be procured by the District. Such record or a copy thereof shall be kept on file in the office of the District. The costs of the record and the hearing examiner, and other related costs may be assessed against the unsuccessful party or parties either after a final decision is rendered by the Board, or after the conclusion of any litigation that may ensue.
- J. The Board may deliberate the record as a quasi-judicial body under the provisions of 84-1409(i)(ii), R.R.S. without complying with the Nebraska public meetings laws.
- K. All orders and decisions of the Board shall be transmitted to the parties directly involved in the hearing by certified mail.
- L. The Board may at any time order the District staff to make an investigation into any matter within the jurisdiction of the Board or order any hearing which the Board is authorized either by law or inherent power to conduct. In the event of an investigation, the Board may request the attendance of any party.

Supplemental Rule 19 DISTRICT TECHNICAL MANUAL

All contents of Part IV, Supplemental Rules and Regulations herein of the District Technical Manual are incorporated into, and considered an integral part of the District groundwater rules and regulations, and are applicable in concert with the Rules and Regulations for Groundwater Control of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District Management Area - Order No.25 (R&R).

Supplemental Rule 20 SEVERABILITY OF RULES

If any part of this District Technical Manual or any rule or part of any rule in the Rules and Regulations for Groundwater Control of the District shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions thereof.

Adopted this 2nd day of July 2002.

This Technical Manual for the Upper Republican Natural Resources District shall be effective in concert with the Rules and Regulations for Groundwater Control of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District Management Area (Order No.25), commencing September 1, 2002.

UPPER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES

DISTRICT

By _____
Robert Ambrosek, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kenneth E. Owens, Secretary

Appendix E – Middle Republican Natural Resource District

Current Middle Republican NRD

Ground Water Management Area Plan Rules and Regulations

Adopted July 1, 1998

Revised July 1, 2000

Rules and Regulations

Authority - These rules and regulations are adopted pursuant to the authority granted in the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act, Sections 46-656.01 to 46-656.67.

Purpose - The purposes of the management area herein designated are:

1. To maintain, in accordance with the districts' ground water management plan, a ground water reservoir life of at least seventy five (75) years,
2. Protect ground water quality,
3. Allow for the integrated management of hydrologically connected ground water and surface water.

Rule 1. Management Area Designation and Boundaries - A ground water management area is hereby designated in the Middle Republican Natural Resources District. The geographic boundary of such management area will coincide with the boundaries of the Middle Republican Natural Resources District. The stratigraphic boundary of the area is from the land surface to the base of the underlying sand and gravel layers that contain the water bearing material. The base of the sand and gravel layers rest on impervious layers of Niobrara Chalk, Pierce Shale or formations from the White River Group.

Rule 2. Definition -

2.1 Act: The Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act.

2.2 Board: The elected board of directors of the Middle Republican Natural Resources District.

2.3 Dewatering Well: Shall mean a water well constructed for the purpose of lowering the ground water surface elevation.

2.4 District: The Middle Republican Natural Resources District.

2.5 Flow Meter: A device, approved by the district, to measure the quantity of ground water pumped, withdrawn, or taken from a water well.

2.6 Ground Water: Ground water shall mean that water which occurs in or moves, seeps, filters, or

percolates through the ground under the surface of the land.

2.7 Illegal Water Well:

- a. Any water well operated or constructed without or in violation of a permit required by the Act, or
- b. Any water well not in compliance with the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to the act, or
- c. Any water well not properly registered in accordance with sections 46-602 to 46-6-4, or
- d. Any water well not in compliance with any other applicable laws of the State of Nebraska or with rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to such laws, or
- e. Any water well constructed or operated in violation of these or other rules and regulations of the district.

2.8 Inactive Status Well: Shall mean a water well that is in a good state of repair and for which the owner has provided evidence of intent for future use by maintaining the water well in a manner which meets the follow requirements:

- a. The water well does not allow impairment of the water quality in the water well or of the ground water encountered by the water well,
- b. The top of the water well or water well casing has a water-tight welded or threaded cover or some other water-tight means to prevent its removal without the use of equipment or tools to prevent unauthorized access, to prevent a safety hazard to humans and animals, and to prevent illegal disposal of wastes or contaminants into the water well,
- c. The water well is marked so as to be easily visible and identified as a water well and the area surrounding the water well is kept clear of brush, debris, and waste material and status change is filed with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

2.9 Late Permit: Shall mean a permit applied for after construction has commenced on a water well.

2.10 Livestock Operation Well: A regulated water well providing for the watering of animals in a livestock operation or confined livestock operation as defined in Chapter 1 of Title 130, NDEQ, and requiring a permit from NDEQ to operate.

2.11 Livestock Well: A water well providing for the watering of:

- a. Livestock, poultry, farm and domestic animals used in operating a farm, or
- b. Domestic livestock as related to normal farm and ranch operations, or
- c. Range livestock or stock use on a farm or ranch

2.12 Operator: The person who controls the day to day operation of the water well.

2.13 Permit: Shall mean a document that must be obtained from the district in accordance with Rule 6 before construction of a water well may be commenced in the management area.

2.14 Person: A natural person, a partnership, a limited liability company, an association, a corporation, a municipality, an irrigation district, an agency or a political subdivision of the state, or a department, an agency, or a bureau of the United States of America.

2.15 Regulated Well: A water well designed and constructed to pump more than fifty (50) gallons per minute. A series of water wells, with a combined discharge of more than fifty (50) gallons per minute, of which the water is commingled, combined, clustered or joined as a single unit for a single purpose shall be considered as one regulated well.

2.16 Replacement Well: A water well which:

a. Replaces a previously abandoned (decommissioned) water well within three (3) years of the last operation of the abandoned (decommissioned) water well or replaces a water well that will not be used after construction of the new water well and the original water well will be decommissioned within one (1) year of construction of the new water well and,

b. Is constructed to provide water to the same tract of land served by the water well being replaced.

2.17 Test Hole: Shall mean a hole designed solely for the purpose of obtaining information on hydrogeologic conditions.

2.18 Unregulated Well: A water well designed and constructed to pump fifty (50) gpm or less and is not commingled, combined, clustered or joined with other water wells.

2.19 Unused/Seldom Used Well: A water well that has not been placed in inactive status but is used less than one year in three.

2.20 Waiver: An agreement between a water well owner or operator and the district that will provide for relief from the enforcement of a rule or rules of the district.

2.21 Water Well: Any excavation that is drilled, cored, bored, washed, driven, dug, jetted, or otherwise constructed for the purpose of exploring for ground water, monitoring ground water, utilizing the geothermal properties of the ground, obtaining hydrogeologic information or extracting water from or injecting water into the underground water reservoir. Water wells shall not include any excavation made for obtaining or prospecting for oil or natural gas or for inserting media to repressure oil or natural gas bearing formations regulated by the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

Rule 3. Well Spacing -

3.1 No regulated well shall be constructed upon any land in this district within one thousand three hundred and twenty (1,320) feet of any registered regulated well, regardless of ownership except:

1. Any irrigation water well that replaces an irrigation water well drilled prior to September 20, 1957, and

which is less than six hundred (600) feet from a registered irrigation well shall be drilled with fifty (50) feet of the old water well,

2. After July 1, 1998, a replacement well may be constructed at less than one thousand three hundred and twenty (1,320) feet from another registered water well, if it is constructed within one hundred (100) feet of the water well it replaces and was, when constructed, in compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

3.2 The well spacing required by **Rule 3.1** shall apply to an unregistered water well for a period of only thirty (30) days following completion of such water well.

Rule 4. Flow Meters -

4.1 Flow meters meeting the accuracy specifications established in **Rule 4.3** shall be installed on all regulated wells in accordance with the schedule established in **Rule 4.2**.

4.2 Placement schedule:

For regulated wells in the alluvial valley of the Republican River Basin, as identified by the Nebraska's Department of Natural Resources, flow meters shall be installed by December 31st of the year specified.

4.2.1 1998 - Alluvial wells in sections 1 through 12

1999 - Alluvial wells in sections 13 through 23

2000 Alluvial wells in sections 24 through 36

For regulated wells, other than those in **Rule 4.2-1**, flow meters shall be installed by December 31st of the year specified.

4.2.2 2001 - All regulated wells in the NE quarter of the section

2002 - All regulated wells in the SE quarter of the section

2003 - All regulated wells in the SW quarter of the section

2004 - All regulated wells in the NW quarter of the section

For all new or replacement regulated wells constructed after July 1, 1999, flow meters shall be installed prior to use of the well.

For unused/seldom used wells or wells with a pumping capacity of less than two hundred and fifty (250) gallons per minute a measuring device or method approved by the district with an accuracy of plus or minus 5% of the actual water flow may be used.

For inactive status wells a flow meter shall be installed prior to placing the well into active status.

4.3 All meters shall be tested for accuracy using recognized industry testing methods and certified by the manufacturer according to those standards. At any rate of flow with the normal flow limits, the meter, except as noted in **Rule 4.2**, shall register not less than 98 percent nor more than 102 percent of the water actually

passing through the meter. All meters shall have a register or totalizer and shall read in U.S. gallons, acre feet or acre inches.

4.4 Installation - The operator shall, on forms provided by the district, report the location, by legal description and certify the proper installation of flow meters. The district may, at a time of its own choosing, verify the location and proper installation of flow meters. The proper installation of a meter is such that it meets manufacturers specifications and/or more restrictive specifications developed by the district.

4.5 Service - It is the responsibility of the operator to service and maintain the flow meter according to either the manufacturers standards or standards developed by the district.

Rule 5. Reports -

5.1 Beginning with the year after meter installation as required by **Rule 4** all operators of regulated irrigation wells shall report on forms provided by the district by November 15 each year, measurements that show or allow the district to determine the total water withdrawn from that well since the last report and the acres irrigated by that well during the preceding irrigation season.

5.2 Each operator of a regulated well, other than an irrigation well, shall report, on forms provided by the district, by January 15 each year, the total water withdrawn from that well during the preceding calendar year.

Rule 6. Well Permit -

6.1 Except as provided to **Rule 6.2** any person who intends to construct a water well on land in the management area which he or she owns or controls shall, before commencing construction, apply with the district for a permit on a form provided by the district.

6.2 Exceptions - No permit shall be required for:

1. Test wells,
2. Dewatering wells with an intended use of ninety (90) days or less,
3. A single water well designed and constructed to pump fifty (50) gallons per minute or less.

6.3 A permit is required for a water well designed and constructed to pump fifty (50) gallons per minute or less if such water is commingled, combined, clustered, or joined with any other water well or wells or other water source, other than a water source used to water range livestock. Such wells shall be considered one water well and the combined capacity shall be used as the rated capacity.

6.4 A person shall apply for a permit before he or she modifies a water well, for which a permit was not required when the well was constructed, into one for which a permit is now required.

6.5 The application shall be accompanied by a \$17.50 filing fee payable to the district and shall contain:

1. The name and post office address of the well owner,
2. The nature of the proposed use,
3. The intended location of the proposed water well or other means of obtaining ground water,
4. The intended size, type, and description of the proposed water well and estimated depth,
5. The estimated capacity in gallons,
6. The acreage and location by legal description of the intended use of the well water,
7. A description of the proposed use of the well water,
8. The registration number of the well being replaced, if applicable,
9. Such other information as the district may require.

6.6 Any person who has failed or in the future fails to obtain a permit before construction is started shall make an application for a late permit on forms provided by the district.

6.7 The application for a late permit shall be accompanied by a two hundred and fifty (\$250) fee payable to the district and shall contain the same information required in

Rule 6.5.

6.8 The application for a permit shall be denied if:

1. The location or operation of the proposed water well or other work would conflict with any regulations or controls adopted by the district,
2. The proposed use would not be a beneficial use,
3. In the case of a late permit only, that the applicant did not act in good faith in failing to obtain a timely permit.

6.9 The issuance, by the district, of a permit or the registration of a water well shall not vest in any person the right to violate any district rule, regulation, control properly adopted after such date.

6.10 The applicant shall commence construction as soon as possible after the date of approval and shall complete construction and equip the water well prior to the date specified in the conditions of approval, which shall not be more than one year from the date of approval.

**Rules and Regulations For the
Temporary Suspension of the Drilling of New Wells**

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Middle Republican Natural Resources District on June 11, 2002 following a Public Hearing on June 11, 2002.

AUTHORITY

The authority for these rules is contained in Chapter 46, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Article 6, specifically sections 46-656.01 to 46-656.67 known as the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

In July of 1996, the Middle Republican NRD requested that the Department of Water Resources conduct studies and hold a hearing on the preparation of a joint action plan for the integrated management of hydrologically connected ground water and surface water in the NRD.

In July of 1998, the Middle Republican NRD adopted rules and regulations for a Ground Water Management Area. The current version of the groundwater management area rules and regulations were adopted in July 2000.

In June of 1999, the Middle Republican NRD requested that the process initiated in July of 1996, be suspended.

In May of 2002, the Middle Republican NRD requested that the Department of Natural Resources (formerly the Department of Water Resources) resume the process begun in 1996.

Rule 1. Area Designation and Boundaries: The area subject to these rules is the entire geographic area that coincides with the boundaries of the Middle Republican Natural Resources District. The stratigraphic boundary of the area is from the land surface to the base of the underlying sand and gravel layers that contain the water bearing material. The base of the sand and gravel layers rest on impervious layers of Niobrara Chalk, Pierre Shale or formations from the White River Group.

Rule 2. Definitions:

2.1 Ground Water Management Area: Shall mean the area so designated by the Middle Republican Natural Resources District pursuant to section 46-656.20, Revised Statutes of Nebraska, on July 1, 1998.

2.2 Permit: Shall mean a document that must be obtained from the district in accordance with Sections 46-656.29 through 46-656.31, Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Rule 6 of the Rules and Regulations for the Ground Water Management Area.

2.3 Well or Water Well: Shall mean a water well as defined in Section 46-601.01, Revised Statutes of Nebraska and that is designed and constructed to pump more than fifty (50) gallons per minute. A series of water wells, with a combined discharge of more than fifty (50) gallons per minute, of which the water is commingled, combined, clustered or joined as a single unit for a single purpose shall be considered as one well.

2.4 Test Hole: Shall mean a hole designed solely for the purpose of obtaining information on hydrogeologic conditions.

2.5 Dewatering Well: shall mean a water well constructed for the purpose of temporarily

lowering the ground water surface elevation.

- 2.6** Replacement Well: a water well which (a) replaces a previously abandoned water well within three years of the last operation of the abandoned water well or replaces a water well that will not be used after construction of the new water well and the original water well will be decommissioned within one year of construction of the new water well; (b) if for irrigation, is constructed to provide water to the same tract of land served by the water well being replaced. A replacement well as defined in section 46-602, or as further defined in district rules and regulations, is subject to the same provisions as the water well it replaces.

Rule 3. Temporary Suspension of the Drilling of New Wells:

3.1 Effective June 12, 2002 and except as provided in **Rule 3.2**, there is a temporary suspension in the drilling of new wells and a temporary suspension in the issuance of permits to construct new wells.

3.2 Wells not subject to **Rule 3.1** are:

3.2.1 Test holes,

3.2.2 Dewatering wells with an intended use of less than ninety days,

3.2.3 Water wells designed and constructed to pump fifty gallons per minute or less,

3.2.4 Water wells to be used as replacement wells.

3.3 Wells with existing permits may be constructed if, on or before June 11, 2002, the construction of the well has begun. All other permits will be subject to this suspension.

3.4 This temporary suspension of drilling shall remain in effect until June 1, 2005 unless rescinded by the Middle Republican NRD.

3.5 This temporary suspension can be extended by amendment of these rules and regulations beyond June 1, 2005 on an annual basis until June 1, 2007.

Rule 4. Variances:

4.1 The board may grant variances from the strict application of these rules and regulations if it determines that construction of a new well is necessary to alleviate an emergency situation involving the provision of water for human consumption or upon other good cause shown.

4.2 An expedited variance may be granted by the manager or his designated representative for the purpose of approving a well permit for:

4.2.1 Contamination/Remediation: Shall mean a water well, constructed to recovery well standards, for the purpose of withdrawal or treatment of contaminated water, or

for the introduction or removal of air, water or chemicals. The variance request and application for a Permit to Construct a Water Well shall include written approval of the state agency with supervisory responsibility for the planned project.

4.2.2 Monitoring/Observation: Shall mean a water well, constructed to the appropriate well standards,

for the purpose of withdrawal of water or the observation of water levels during aquifer testing, collection of water quality samples and providing hydrogeology information. A monitoring/observation well shall not have a permanent pump installation.

The variance request and an application for a Permit to Construct a Water Well shall include the planned disposition of the monitoring/observation well after its intended use is completed.

4.3 All requests for a variance, other than those in **Rule 4.2**, shall be made on forms provided by the district and will be acted upon after a hearing before the district.

Rule 5. Violations:

These rules and regulations shall be enforced by the district through the use of cease and desist orders issued in accordance with the "Rules and Regulations for the Enforcement of the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act, adopted March 27, 2000, and Section II, Subsection E, **Rule 4** of the "General Policy Statement". Any violation of a cease and desist order issued by the district shall be a Class IV misdemeanor.

Appendix E Lower Republican Natural Resource District