

Kansas Administrative Regulations

Kansas Department of Agriculture—Division of Water Resources

Article 20.—Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area

5-20-1. Intensive groundwater use control area; public hearings.

(a) In any case in which the chief engineer initiates proceedings for the designation of an intensive groundwater use control area (IGUCA), an independent hearing officer shall be appointed by the chief engineer. The independent hearing officer shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) Not have been an employee of the department of agriculture for at least five years before the appointment;
- (2) be admitted to practice law in this state; and
- (3) be knowledgeable by training and experience in water law and administrative procedure.

(b)(1) The independent hearing officer shall conduct one or more public hearings to determine whether both of the following conditions are met:

- (A) One or more of the circumstances specified in K.S.A. 82a-1036, and amendments thereto, exist.
- (B) The public interest requires that one or more corrective control provisions should be adopted.

(2) If both of the conditions in paragraph (b)(1) are met, the independent hearing officer shall recommend the boundaries of the IGUCA.

(c) At the public hearing specified in subsection (b), all of the following requirements shall be met:

- (1) Documentary and oral evidence shall be taken, and a full and complete record of the public hearing shall be kept.
- (2) The division of water resource's (DWR's) staff shall make a proffer of the records of the division pertaining to the proposed IGUCA and may present background,

hydrologic, and other information and an analysis of that information, concerning the area in question.

(3) The DWR's proffer and any other DWR presentations shall be heard first, unless the hearing officer determines that a different order of presentation will facilitate the conduct of the hearing.

(4) If any part of the proposed IGUCA is within the boundaries of a groundwater management district (GMD), a representative of that GMD shall be allowed to present the GMD's own data, analysis, comments, provisions of the GMD's revised management plan, regulations, and recommendations at any public hearing.

(5) Each person shall be allowed to give an oral statement under oath or affirmation or to present documentary evidence, including a signed written statement.

(6) At the end of the public hearing, a reasonable opportunity for any person to submit oral or written comments concerning the matters presented may be allowed by the hearing officer.

(7) The hearing shall be conducted according to the procedure specified in K.A.R. 5-14-3a. The hearing officer shall have the discretion to use a different procedure if it facilitates the conduct of the hearing.

(8) The independent hearing officer shall make the following findings of fact:

(A) Whether one or more of the circumstances specified in K.S.A. 82a-1036, and amendments thereto, exist; and

(B) whether the public interest requires that one or more corrective control provisions should be adopted.

(9) The independent hearing officer shall transmit the findings to the chief engineer.

(d) The proceeding shall be concluded if the independent hearing officer finds that at least one of the following conditions is met:

(1) None of the circumstances specified in K.S.A. 82a-1036, and amendments thereto, exist.

(2) The public interest does not require that any corrective control provisions should be adopted.

(e) The procedure specified in subsection (f) shall be followed by the chief engineer if the independent hearing officer meets all of the following conditions:

(1) Finds that one or more of the conditions specified in K.S.A. 82a-1036, and amendments thereto, exist;

(2) finds that public interest requires that any one or more corrective control provisions should be adopted; and

(3) recommends the boundaries of the proposed IGUCA.

(f) If the independent hearing officer makes the findings and recommendation specified in subsection (e), one or more public hearings shall be conducted by the chief engineer to determine the following:

(1) What the goals of the IGUCA should be;

(2) what corrective control provisions should be adopted; and

(3) what the final boundaries of the IGUCA should be.

After the hearing, the order described in K.S.A. 82a-1038, and amendments thereto, shall be issued by the chief engineer. The chief engineer's order shall include the independent hearing officer's findings of fact.

(g) Notice of the public hearings held by the independent hearing officer shall be given by regular mail and by publication, as specified in K.S.A. 82a-1037 and amendments thereto.

(Authorized by K.S.A. 82a-706a; implementing K.S.A. 74-510a, K.S.A. 82a-1036, K.S.A. 82a-1037, and K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 82a-1038; effective Sept. 18, 2009.)

***** Authenticated Kansas Administrative Regulation *****