



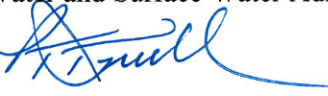
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PATRICK TYRRELL
STATE ENGINEER

Policy Memorandum

To: State Engineer's Office, Ground Water and Surface Water Administrators
From: Patrick T. Tyrrell, State Engineer 
Date: July 28, 2010
Re: Control Area Advisory Board Review for Miscellaneous-Use Applications in Ground Water Control Areas

The Wyoming State Engineer's Office (SEO) and the Board of Control have established Ground Water Control Areas (GWCAs) in various portions of Southeastern Wyoming, as provided by Wyoming Statute §41-3-912. As provided in part by §41-3-932, the SEO has not historically presented Miscellaneous Use applications for 25 gallons per minute or less to the GWCA Advisory Boards for consideration. The SEO has, in certain instances, not presented temporary Miscellaneous Use applications to the GWCA Advisory Boards. Within the last several weeks, the Ground Water Division has received numerous inquiries regarding Miscellaneous Use applications which propose to divert water on a temporary basis or serve to enlarge an existing well for a temporary use.

The establishment of GWCAs in Wyoming has been largely based on diminishing availability of the groundwater resource. The SEO has documented declining groundwater levels in many portions of GWCAs, and many GWCA aquifers see heavy use. Based on the volume of Miscellaneous Use applications (within GWCAs) the SEO expects to receive in the near future, the SEO can no longer consider such proposals to be of such a small scale as to render them a de minimis impact.

Effective immediately, the SEO will be presenting all Miscellaneous Use applications (including those for which the use will be temporary) to the appropriate Advisory Board for review. In following with all other considerations before the GWCA Advisory Boards, the applicant will be responsible for bearing the costs associated with advertising the application.