

From: David Mueller [<mailto:davidmue87@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 2:53 PM
To: Hutton, Ronda [KDA] <Ronda.Hutton@ks.gov>
Subject: Wichita Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project Proposed Changes

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Mr. Barfield,

My name is David Mueller. I farm with my family north of Halstead. I do not own any parcels with water permits but am the tenant of a parcel with a well that I irrigate from.

I oppose the proposed changes to the ASR program on the grounds that they are not, as presented, in the best interest of the Equus Beds.

I find the idea of AMC's troubling as well as the logic behind them lacking. The basis of AMC's is the premise that by the City of Wichita using water from another source, the Little Arkansas River, rather than their permitted rights from the Equus Beds, that they can gain a credit in the amount of the unused permitted water. By this logic, a farmer using water from another source (rainfall), would be entitled to credits in the amount of rainfall that fell (or the amount of their permit that they did not use in a given year).

As appealing as this idea would be to many farmers, many, myself included, would ultimately reject this idea. We would reject this idea because what is in the aquifer's best interest is in our best interest. It is our desire that the aquifer be sustainable for many generations to come. Many of our livelihoods depend on it.

I, as well as the other farmers in the area, do not want to cause a hardship to the City of Wichita or its' citizens, however, all the evidence presented in no way indicates hardship for the city. In fact, it appears that the city is profiting greatly from the sale of this water.

As an institution looking to make money in the short term, the city no doubt views this as a great opportunity to procure more free water to sell at a significant profit. However, if they are an institution for which the well being of the Equus Beds is a priority, as the City of Wichita claims to be, their proposal fails logically as well as ethically.

I don't pretend to understand the responsibility which comes with your position, however, I do understand that you were appointed to act in the best interest of the natural resources of the State of Kansas and all of its' citizens. History tells us that the commercialization of the earth's natural resources rarely benefits, and often harms, those who live on the land that holds those resources.

I appreciate your time and the opportunity to share my concerns on this matter.

Sincerely,

David Mueller