

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Middle Republican Natural Resources District will hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving testimony with regard to proposed revisions to the rules and regulations for the Ground Water Management Area for the Middle Republican Natural Resources District. The hearing will be at the Middle Republican NRD Office, at 208 Center Avenue, in Curtis Nebraska on March 10, 2020, at 1:30 PM. Written testimony may be sent to the Middle Republican Natural Resources District at PO Box 81, Curtis, Nebraska, 69025. Written testimony will be accepted until the close of the hearing on March 10, 2020. The proposed amendments will be considered at the regular board meeting following the hearing.

The authority for these rules and regulations is the authority granted in the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act. NRRS 46-701 through 46-754. Public Hearing requirements are in NRRS 46-743. This amendment to the Rules and Regulations for the Ground Water Management Area clarifies language relating variance fees, well spacing, flow meter installation, responsibility of well owner for certified acres, Chemigation permitting, compliance and enforcement actions; and, penalties for violations of the Nebraska Chemigation Acts.

The purpose of this management area is to (1) protect ground water quantity and (2) the prevention or resolution of conflicts between users of ground water and appropriators of surface water, which ground water and surface water are hydrologically connected through implementation of the goals and objectives identified in the Integrated Management Plan.

The geographic area is the entire Middle Republican Natural Resources District.

The purpose and geographic area of the Management Area are not changed.

General Rule of Interpretation now provides for the updates and changes to State Statute.

Rule 4-3.1.1. Well Spacing. Clarifying the language in the well spacing requirements.

Rule 4-4. Flow Meters. Clarifying improperly installed meters.

Rule 4-4.12. Backflow Preventer Required. Requirement to have one installed.

Rule 4-6. Certification. Irrigation uses 4-6.4.1. The owner of an irrigation well is responsible for the amount of water pumped and the acres irrigated by that well. It is the responsibility of all parties associated with certified irrigated acres a well serves to have an agreement or come to a resolution as to who owns those certified acres.

Rules 6-3.2 through 6-3.7 Chemigation Permit. Further defining the requirements, fees and responsibilities of Chemigation applicator.

Rules 6-5.2 through 6-5.4.1 Compliance and Enforcement Actions. Requirements for staying in compliance and setting a timeline to correct any violation before District action will be taken to revoke a person's Chemigation permit.

Rule 6-6 Civil Penalties for Violation of the Nebraska Chemigation Act.
Penalty fine amounts for violations.

This notice is only a general description of the contents of the proposed rules and regulations. The full text of these rules and regulations are available on the district website at mnrnd.org or may be obtained by contacting the Middle Republican NRD, PO Box 81, Curtis NE, 69025 or at 308-367-4281.

Publish for three consecutive weeks. The first publication shall be the week of February 17, 2020, the second publication the week of February 24, 2020 and the last publication shall be NO LATER THAN March 3, 2020