

## **Water Appropriation Regulations Adopted in 2009**

In 2009, Kansas adopted the following Kansas Administrative Regulation revisions:

K.A.R. 5-3-4a, 5-14-3, 5-14-3a, 5-20-1, 5-20-2, and 5-7-4.

**K.A.R. 5-3-4a. Hearing before issuance of an order.** (a) A hearing may be held pursuant to K.A.R. 5-14-3a by the chief engineer, or a person designated by the chief engineer, before the chief engineer issues an order if one of the following conditions is met:

(1) The chief engineer finds it to be in the public interest to hold a hearing.  
(2) A hearing has been requested by a person who shows to the satisfaction of the chief engineer that approval of the application could cause impairment of senior water rights or permits.

(3) The chief engineer desires public input on the matter.

(b) The hearing shall be electronically recorded by the chief engineer.

(c) If all of the parties agree, an informal conference instead of a hearing may be held by the chief engineer pursuant to K.A.R. 5-14-3a. (Authorized by K.S.A. 82a-706a; implementing K.S.A. 82a-706a, K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 82a-708b, 82a-711, and 82a-737; effective May 1, 1980; amended May 31, 1994; amended Mar. 20, 2009.)

**K.A.R. 5-14-3. Orders.** (a) An order subject to review pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1901, and amendments thereto, shall be issued by the chief engineer in each of the following matters:

(1) The approval or dismissal of an application to change the place of use, the point of diversion, the use made of water, or any combination of these, filed pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-708b and amendments thereto;

(2) the approval or dismissal of an application to appropriate water for beneficial use filed pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-711 and amendments thereto;

(3) the declaration of abandonment and termination of a water right pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-718 and amendments thereto; and

(4) the suspension of the use of water under a term permit, an approved application for a permit to appropriate water for beneficial use, an appropriation right, or a vested right, pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-770 and amendments thereto.

(b) Each order that is issued pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-737, and amendments thereto, and is subject to review pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1901, and amendments thereto, shall be issued by the chief engineer, or the chief engineer's designee, in the assessment of civil penalty, the modification of a person's water right or permit to use water, the suspension of a person's water right or permit to use water, or any combination of these.

(c) Unless limited or prohibited by statute, any person to whom the order is directed or who has a property interest that could be adversely affected by the action or proposed action may request a review pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1901, and amendments thereto, without filing a request for a hearing before the chief engineer.

(d) The chief engineer shall not be required to hold a hearing before issuing an order unless required by statute.

(e)(1) Any person to whom an order will be directed may request a hearing before the chief engineer before the issuance of an order by the chief engineer. The person shall then be notified by the chief engineer that, if the request is granted by the chief engineer, the person shall not be allowed to have a second hearing before the chief engineer after the issuance of the order. Within 15 days after the notice is sent, the person shall notify the chief engineer whether the requestor wants to proceed with a hearing before the chief engineer issues the order.

(2) If a hearing is held by the chief engineer before the issuance of the order by the chief engineer and the person to whom the order is directed still desires to have the order reviewed, the person shall seek review pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1901, and amendments thereto, if that type of review is authorized by statute.

(f) If a person to whom an order was directed did not have a hearing before the issuance of an order, that person may request a hearing before the chief engineer after issuance of the order. The person shall submit a written request for hearing to the chief engineer within 15 days of service of the order pursuant to K.S.A. 77-531, and amendments thereto. If a hearing is not requested, the person may seek review pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1901, and amendments thereto, within 30 days of service of the order pursuant to K.S.A. 77-531 and amendments thereto, if that type of review is authorized by statute. Each request for a hearing shall meet the following requirements:

(1) Be filed in writing with the chief engineer within 15 days after the date of service of the order; and

(2) set forth the factual and legal basis for the hearing request. The factual basis may be stated generally and shall not be required to be specific if the written request clearly establishes the existence of disputed facts. The request for hearing may be denied if the request fails to clearly establish factual or legal issues.

(g) A request for intervention in a matter pending hearing from a person or persons other than those to whom the order is directed may be granted by the chief engineer if all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The chief engineer has issued a notice of hearing.

(2) The person requesting to intervene has filed a notice with the chief engineer that the order in the pending matter could adversely affect one or more of the following:

(A) The person's property interest in the pending matter;

(B) the person's water right or permit to appropriate water; or

(C) the person's statutory duty to act.

(3) The chief engineer has determined that the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings will not be impaired by allowing the intervention. (Authorized by K.S.A. 82a-706a; implementing K.S.A. 82a-706a, K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 82a-708b, 82a-711, 82a-718, 82a-737, 82a-770, and 82a-1901; effective Sept. 22, 2000; amended Mar. 20, 2009.)

**K.A.R. 5-14-3a. Hearing procedure.** The procedures specified in this regulation shall apply to any hearing held by the chief engineer pursuant to K.A.R. 5-14-3. Upon notice to all parties, these procedures may be applied by the chief engineer to any other hearings held under the Kansas water appropriation act. (a) Unless otherwise required by statute, the following persons and entities shall be allowed to be parties to a formal hearing before the chief engineer:

- (1) The division of water resources, Kansas department of agriculture (DWR);
- (2) the person or persons to whom the order is, or will be, directed;
- (3) the applicant to change the place of use, the point of diversion, the use made of water, or any combination of these, under K.S.A. 82a-708b and amendments thereto, or the applicant to appropriate water for beneficial use under K.S.A. 82a-711, and amendments thereto;
- (4) the owners of the proposed place of use and the owners of the place of use authorized under the application, water right, or permit to appropriate water; and
- (5) any other person who has filed a timely petition for intervention in accordance with K.A.R. 5-14-3(e).

(b) The hearing shall be presided over by the chief engineer or the chief engineer's designee. Authority may be delegated by the chief engineer to the presiding officer to issue the order or to make written recommendations to the chief engineer after the hearing.

(c) Unless otherwise required by statute, the presiding officer shall issue a written notice of hearing to all parties and to any person who requests notice of a hearing.

(1) Notice of hearing shall be served on the parties as required by statute, but not later than 15 days before the hearing.

(2) The notice of hearing shall be served by mail, facsimile, electronic mail, or hand-delivery and shall be evidenced by a certificate of service. If due diligence fails to locate a person allowed to be a party, then notice by publication shall be made in the manner indicated in K.A.R. 5-14-3a (d) (2).

(3) The notice of hearing shall include the following:

(A) A case or other identification number and a descriptive title, which shall appear on all correspondence relating to the docket. If more than one matter has been consolidated for hearing, all numbers and descriptive titles shall appear on all correspondence;

(B) the names and mailing addresses of all parties;

(C) a statement of the time, place and nature of the hearing. If more than one matter has been consolidated for hearing, statement of the nature of the hearing shall include all matters to be heard;

(D) a statement that the presiding officer may complete the hearing without the participation of any party who fails to attend or participate in a prehearing conference, hearing, or other stage in the proceeding; and

(E) if nonparties are provided an opportunity to submit comments, the time and place where oral comments will be accepted and the deadline and mailing address for the submission of written comments.

(4) For abandonment hearings under K.S.A. 82a-718, and amendments thereto, the notice of hearing shall include a copy of the verified report of the chief engineer or the chief engineer's representative.

(d) Unless otherwise required by statute, if members of the public will be given an opportunity to submit oral and written comments, notice of the hearing shall be caused by the chief engineer to be distributed in the place or places where the action or proposed action will be effective.

(1) Notice of hearing shall be given as required by statute, but no later than 15 days before the hearing.

(2) The notice of hearing may be published in a newspaper of general circulation where the action or proposed action will be effective as required by statute, but shall be published at least 15 days before the hearing. The notice of hearing shall not be required to be in the form of a legal notice. The notice may also be given by any other means reasonably calculated to reach the residents of the area.

(e) Only the parties named in the notice of hearing or otherwise designated by the chief engineer may participate in the hearing.

(1) Any party may participate in person or, if the party is a corporation or other artificial person, by an authorized representative.

(2) Any party may be represented, at the party's own expense, by legal counsel or, if permitted by law, some other representative.

(3) The presiding officer may refuse to allow representation that would constitute the unauthorized practice of law.

(4) The presiding officer may give nonparties the opportunity to present oral or written statements to be included in the record of the proceedings.

(5) The presiding officer may consider only oral statements that are given under oath or affirmation and signed written statements.

(6) The presiding officer shall allow all parties a reasonable opportunity to challenge or rebut all oral and written statements received.

(f) The presiding officer may allow any party to participate in prehearing conferences, the hearing, or any other stage of the proceedings by telephone or videoconference.

(1) Unless otherwise authorized by the presiding officer, the party wishing to participate by telephone shall notify the presiding officer at least 48 hours in advance of the prehearing conference. The party wishing to participate by telephone may be granted a continuance if the presiding office is not able to grant the request.

(2) The presiding officer may require the party wishing to participate by telephone to initiate the call.

(3) The presiding officer may refuse to allow any party to participate by telephone if the party has not notified the presiding officer in advance and made arrangements for that participation or if any party objects.

(g) The presiding officer may hold one or more prehearing conferences as necessary to address preliminary matters or to facilitate the hearing.

(1) Notice of all prehearing conferences shall be given by the presiding officer to all parties and to all persons who have requested that notice. Notice may also be given to other interested persons at least 15 days before the prehearing conference.

(2) The notice of prehearing conference shall include the following:

(A) The names and mailing addresses of all parties;

(B) a statement of the time, place, and nature of the prehearing conference; and  
(C) a statement that the presiding officer may complete the hearing without the participation of any party who fails to attend or participate in a prehearing conference, hearing, or other stage in the proceeding.

(3) The presiding officer shall issue a prehearing order after each prehearing conference.

(h) Discovery shall be limited to matters that are clearly relevant to the proceeding.

(i) Each party shall have the opportunity to file pleadings, objections, and motions. At the presiding officer's discretion, any party may be given an opportunity to file briefs, proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, and proposed orders.

(1) Each party shall serve a copy of any written filings on each of the other parties.

(A) Service may be made by mail, facsimile, electronic mail, or hand-delivery.

(B) Service shall be presumed if the person making service signs a written certificate of service.

(C) Service by mail shall be complete upon mailing.

(2) The presiding officer shall notify all parties of the deadlines for written filings and may extend the deadlines upon request of any party.

(A) Unless otherwise stated in the notice or order of the presiding officer, all deadlines to file documents within a specific number of days shall end at the close of business on the third working day after the deadline set in the notice or order mailed out by the presiding officer.

(B) In computing any deadline, the day of service shall not be included. Working days shall not include Saturdays, Sundays, state holidays, and federal holidays.

(3) The presiding officer shall not be required to consider any written filing that has not been filed on or before the deadline or that is not served on all parties.

(4) Service upon an attorney of record shall be deemed to be service upon the party represented by the attorney.

(j) After the presiding officer has issued a notice of hearing and before an order is issued, no party or its attorneys shall discuss the merits of the proceedings with the presiding officer or with any other person named in the prehearing order as assisting the presiding officer in the hearing, unless all parties have the opportunity to participate.

(1) If the presiding officer receives an ex parte communication, the presiding officer shall notify all parties that an ex parte communication has been received and place the notice in the record of the pending matter. The notice shall contain the following:

(A) A copy of any written ex parte communication received and any written response to the communication; and

(B) a memorandum stating the substance of any oral ex parte communication received, any oral response made, and the identity of each person from whom the oral ex parte communication was received.

(2) Any party may submit written rebuttal to an ex parte communication within 15 days after service of notice of the communication. If any party submits a written rebuttal to an ex parte communication, that party shall simultaneously serve a copy on all other parties and the

presiding officer. All timely filed written rebuttals shall be placed in the record of the pending matter.

(3) A presiding officer who has received an ex parte communication shall withdraw from the pending matter if the presiding officer determines that the communication has rendered the presiding officer no longer qualified to hear the pending matter because of bias, prejudice, or interest.

(4) Any party may petition for the disqualification of a presiding officer upon discovering facts establishing grounds for disqualification because of bias, prejudice, or interest.

(5) Each presiding officer whose disqualification is requested shall determine whether to grant the petition, stating facts and reasons for the determination. The facts and reasons for the presiding officer's decision shall be entered into the record.

(k) The presiding officer may consolidate any proceedings if there are common issues to be resolved or a common factual basis for the proceedings. The presiding officer may consolidate proceedings on the presiding officer's own motion or upon the request of the parties to all proceedings.

(1) The presiding officer may continue the hearing or any other proceeding on that person's own motion or at the request of a party.

(1) A party shall notify all other parties before requesting a continuance.

(2) The presiding officer shall not be required to continue the hearing if all other parties have not been consulted or if any party objects.

(3) Each party who requires a continuance because of an emergency shall notify the presiding officer and any other party as soon as the party reasonably determines that an emergency exists.

(m) Each party shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard. Each party shall be given the opportunity to present evidence and argument, conduct cross-examination, and submit rebuttal evidence, except as may be restricted by a prehearing order or limited grant of intervention.

(1) Unless otherwise limited by this regulation or the presiding officer, each party and each intervenor shall be given an opportunity to make opening statements and closing arguments.

(2) Unless the parties have been required to exchange exhibits before the hearing, each party shall bring a copy of each document offered as evidence for each party and at least two copies for the presiding officer. If possible, the original document, or a certified copy of the document, shall be offered into evidence at the hearing.

(3) All hearings shall be open to the public.

(4) All testimony of parties and witnesses shall be made under oath or affirmation.

(5) The direct examination of each witness shall be followed by cross-examination of the witness. Cross-examination shall be limited in scope to the testimony upon direct examination. Redirect examination shall be limited in scope to the testimony upon cross-examination. Re-cross-examination shall be limited in scope to the testimony upon redirect.

(6) No more than one attorney for each party shall examine or cross-examine a witness. The presiding officer may require that only one attorney be allowed to cross-examine a witness on behalf of all parties united in interest.

(7) All testimony shall be taken on the record unless the presiding officer grants a request to go off the record.

(8) At the time determined by the presiding officer, the presiding officer shall announce that the record of exhibits and testimony shall be closed and, if applicable, that the matter has been taken under advisement.

(9) The record shall not be reopened except upon order of the presiding officer or the chief engineer.

(n)(1) In any hearing concerning an application filed under K.S.A. 82a-708b or K.S.A. 82a-711 and amendments thereto, the applicant shall bear the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the application should be approved.

(2) If the DWR does not offer opinion testimony concerning whether and how the application complies or does not comply with the applicable regulations, its participation in the hearing shall be limited as follows:

(A) The DWR shall make a proffer of the records of the agency pertaining to the pending matter and may offer the testimony of fact witnesses to lay foundation for the proffer. These witnesses may be cross-examined, but cross-examination shall be limited to the scope of the direct questioning.

(B) If any member of the DWR's staff is called as a witness for or is cross-examined by another party, the DWR shall be allowed to conduct cross-examination of the witnesses offered by that party.

(3) The applicant shall be heard after the DWR's proffer, unless the presiding officer determines that another order of presentation will facilitate the conduct of the hearing.

(4) If the DWR offers opinion testimony concerning whether and how the application complies or does not comply with the applicable regulations, the DWR shall be heard after the applicant and the DWR may participate in the hearing to the same extent as the applicant, unless the presiding officer determines that a different order of presentation will facilitate the conduct of the hearing.

(5) The presiding officer shall determine the order in which other parties and interveners may be heard.

(o) In hearings concerning the assessment of a civil penalty, the modification of a water right, the suspension of a water right, or the suspension of the use of water under a water right, the following requirements shall be met:

(1) The DWR shall bear the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, that a violation under K.S.A. 82a-737 and amendments thereto or K.S.A. 82a-770 and amendments thereto, or both, has occurred.

(2) The DWR shall be heard first at the hearing, unless the presiding officer determines that a different order of presentation will facilitate the conduct of the hearing. The presiding officer shall determine the order in which other parties and interveners may be heard.

(p) In an abandonment hearing pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-718 and amendments thereto, the DWR shall first present the verified report specified in K.S.A. 82a-718, and amendments thereto.

(1) The verified report shall be a report of the DWR's investigation into the water use history and shall contain the following:

(A) Documentation that shows the use or nonuse of water authorized by the water right as established by the contents of the DWR water right file and as reported to the DWR, pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-732 and amendments thereto;

(B) the analysis of the documentation used in the verified report by the preparer of the verified report;

(C) a conclusion citing the specific successive years of nonuse to meet the criteria for abandonment found in K.S.A. 82a-718 and amendments thereto; and

(D) the years for which due and sufficient cause for nonuse pursuant to K.A.R. 5-7-1 was reported to the chief engineer pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-732, and amendments thereto, and verified by the DWR.

(2)(A) If the verified report specified by K.S.A. 82a-718(a), and amendments thereto, establishes that there has been no lawful, beneficial use of water for the period of time specified in K.S.A. 82a-718(a) and amendments thereto and that due and sufficient cause for the nonuse of water has not been reported to the DWR pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-732 and amendments thereto during this period, this shall be considered to be prima facie evidence that the water right has been abandoned.

(B) Upon a determination by the presiding officer that prima facie evidence of abandonment exists, the water right owner shall bear the burden of rebutting the prima facie evidence by a preponderance of the evidence establishing that there had been lawful, beneficial use of water during the time period in question or that due and sufficient cause existed for the nonuse of water during the period of time in question, or both, to avoid the application of K.S.A. 82a-718(a) and amendments thereto.

(3) The DWR may participate in the hearing to the same extent as the owner or owners of the water right.

(4) The DWR shall be heard first at the hearing, unless the presiding officer determines that another order of presentation will facilitate the conduct of the hearing.

(5) The presiding officer shall determine the order in which other parties and interveners may be heard.

(q) During the hearing, all of the following shall apply:

(1) The presiding officer shall not be bound by the technical rules of evidence.

(2) The presiding officer shall give the parties a reasonable opportunity to be heard and to present evidence.

(3) The presiding officer shall give effect to the privileges listed in K.S.A. 60-426 through 436, and amendment thereto, and any other privileges recognized by law.

(4) Evidence shall not be required to be excluded solely if the evidence is hearsay.

(5) All parties may note, in the record, their exceptions to any ruling or other action of the presiding officer.

(6) If the presiding officer sustains an objection to evidence or testimony, the party may make a proffer of the excluded evidence. The presiding officer may add other statements to clearly show the character of the evidence, the form in which the evidence was offered, and the objection and the ruling made. Upon request, the excluded testimony or evidence shall be marked and preserved for the record upon appeal.

(7) Without notice to the parties and without receiving a request from any party, the presiding officer may take administrative notice of the following:

(A) The Kansas water appropriation act and other Kansas statutes;



(B) regulations promulgated by the chief engineer;  
(C) orders issued by or on behalf of the chief engineer; and  
(D) specific facts and propositions of general knowledge that are so universally known or known within the profession that they cannot reasonably be the subject of dispute or that are capable of immediate and accurate determination by using easily accessible sources of indisputable accuracy.

(8) Upon reasonable notice to the parties and the opportunity to contest and offer rebuttal evidence, the presiding officer may also take administrative notice of any of the following:

(A) Scientific or technical matters within the DWR's specialized knowledge;  
(B) the record of other proceedings before the DWR; and  
(C) codes and standards that have been adopted by an agency of the United States, the state of Kansas, or any other state or by a nationally recognized organization or association.

(r) The hearing and all prehearing conferences shall be electronically recorded at the expense of the Kansas department of agriculture (KDA).

(1) Copies of electronic recordings may be obtained from the DWR. Written transcripts of the recording shall be available by request, and the requestor shall pay the cost of transcription.

(2) The DWR shall hire and pay for a court reporter if deemed necessary by the presiding officer for the presiding officer's use or for the preservation of testimony for later use in a court proceeding. Written transcripts shall be obtained directly from the court reporter at the requestor's expense.

(s) If the chief engineer has not delegated authority to the presiding officer to issue an order, the presiding officer shall issue written recommendations to the chief engineer after the record of the hearing is closed.

(1) The recommendations shall be signed by the presiding officer and shall contain a statement of the recommended decision and the facts and conclusions of law upon which the recommended decision is based.

(2) The presiding officer shall serve the original, signed recommendations on the chief engineer and a copy of the recommendations on each party and on its counsel of record, if any, in the manner specified in this regulation.

(3) The recommendations shall state that the parties have at least 15 days after service in which to provide written comments to the chief engineer and shall contain a certificate of service. After the record of the hearing is closed, no party may submit additional evidence unless specifically permitted to do so by the presiding officer in advance of the submission. In order to receive permission to submit additional evidence, the party shall file a written request with the presiding officer, in advance, with a copy to each other party. Each other party shall be given a reasonable chance to respond to the request to submit additional information. If additional evidence is allowed, each other party shall be allowed a reasonable opportunity to rebut the additional evidence submitted.

(4) All comments submitted within the specified time frame shall be considered by the chief engineer before issuing an order.

(5) The order shall state that it is subject to review by the secretary of agriculture pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1901, and amendments thereto.

(t) An order shall be issued by the chief engineer or, if so authorized, the presiding officer after the record of the hearing is closed.

(1) The order shall be signed by the chief engineer or the presiding officer and shall contain a statement of the relevant law and the facts upon which the decision is based.

(2) The order shall be served on each party or its counsel of record in the manner specified in these regulations and shall contain a certificate of service.

(3) If the presiding officer made recommendations to the chief engineer, the order shall state which recommendations, if any, have been accepted by the chief engineer. (Authorized by K.S.A. 82a-706a; implementing K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 82a-708b, 82a-711, 82a-718, 82a-737, 82a-770, 82a-1038, and 82a-1901; effective Mar. 20, 2009.)

**K.A.R. 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.)

**K.A.R. 5-20-2. Formal review of intensive groundwater use control area orders.** (a) For each intensive groundwater use control area (IGUCA) designated by order of the chief engineer before July 1, 2008, pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1038 and amendments thereto, a public hearing to review the designation shall be conducted by the chief engineer within seven years of the effective date of this regulation. A subsequent review of the designation shall occur within 10 years after the previous public review hearing or more frequently as determined by the chief engineer.

(b) For each IGUCA designated by order of the chief engineer on or after July 1, 2008, a public hearing to review the designation shall be conducted by the chief engineer within seven years after the order is final. A subsequent review of the designation shall occur within 10 years after the previous public review hearing or more frequently as determined by the chief engineer.

(c) Upon the request of a petition signed by at least five percent of the affected water users in an IGUCA designated by order of the chief engineer, a public review hearing to review the designation shall be conducted by the chief engineer. This requested public review hearing shall not be conducted more frequently than every four years.

(d) Written notice of a public review hearing shall be given to each person holding a water right in the affected area. Notice of the hearing shall be given by publication in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation within the affected area at least 30 days before the date set for the hearing. The notice shall indicate the reason for the hearing and shall specify the time and place of the hearing. At the public review hearing, documentary and oral evidence shall be taken, and a full and complete record of the public review hearing shall be kept.

(e) The following shall be considered by the chief engineer at the public review hearing:

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

(2) whether the public interest requires that the IGUCA designation be continued. The state shall have the burden of proving the need for continuance of the IGUCA designation.

(f) Based on the review specified in subsection (e), one of the following actions shall be taken by the chief engineer:

(1) Continue the IGUCA with its original or current corrective control provisions;

(2) reduce the restrictions imposed by one or more corrective control provisions within the scope and goals specified in the original IGUCA order;

(3) reduce the IGUCA boundaries;

(4) increase any allocations within the IGUCA;

(5) address any other issues that have been identified in the review; or

(6) revoke the IGUCA order and implement alternative measures, if necessary, to address the water issues in the affected areas.

(g) If, as a result of the review specified in subsection (e), the chief engineer determines that the restrictions imposed by current corrective control provisions may need to be increased or additional corrective control provisions may be needed, a hearing shall be conducted by the chief engineer according to K.A.R. 5-14-3a.

(h) If, as a result of the review specified in subsection (e), the chief engineer determines that the boundaries of the IGUCA may need to be increased, a new IGUCA proceeding shall be initiated by the chief engineer pursuant to K.A.R. 5-20-1. (Authorized by K.S.A. 82a-706a; implementing K.S.A. 82a-706 and K.S.A. 82a-1036; effective Sept. 18, 2009.)

**K.A.R. 5-7-4. Water rights conservation program.** (a) Applications for enrollment in the water rights conservation program (WRCP) shall not be accepted after December 31, 2009. Applications received on or before December 31, 2009, shall be considered for enrollment in the program. Enrollment in the WRCP approved by the chief engineer and continued compliance with the WRCP shall constitute due and sufficient cause for nonuse pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-718, and amendments thereto, and K.A.R. 5-7-1.

(b) In order to qualify for enrollment in the WRCP, all of the following requirements and conditions shall be met:

(1) The point of diversion shall be located in either of the following locations:

(A) In an area that is closed to new appropriations of water, except for temporary permits, term permits, and domestic use; or

(B) in some other area designated by the chief engineer as an area where it would be in the public interest to allow water rights to be placed in the WRCP. In areas within the boundaries of a groundwater management district, the recommendations of the board of the district shall be taken into consideration by the chief engineer.

(2) Each of the owners of the water right shall agree to totally suspend all water use authorized by that water right for the duration of the contract.

(3) The owner or owners of the water right shall sign a contract with the chief engineer, or the chief engineer's authorized representative, before placing the water right into the WRCP. The contract shall be binding on all successors in interest to the water right owner.

(4) Only an entire water right may be placed into the WRCP. If a portion of a water right has been abandoned, the portion that is still in good standing may be enrolled in the WRCP. If a water right is administratively divided by the chief engineer, each portion of a formally divided water right shall be considered to be an entire water right for the purpose of this regulation.

(A) If at least five successive years of nonuse have occurred before application for enrollment in the WRCP, a determination of whether or not that water right is subject to abandonment before entry into the program, including an analysis of any reasons given that might constitute due and sufficient cause for nonuse, shall be made by the chief engineer.

(B) If, after review of the information, it appears that the right has been abandoned, the statutory procedures, including the right to a hearing, shall be followed to determine whether or not the right has been abandoned.

(5) Only the portion of a water right in good standing at the time of application for enrollment may be entered into the WRCP.

(c) Other requirements of enrollment in the WRCP program shall include the following:

(1) Water rights shall be placed into the WRCP for a definite period of calendar years of no fewer than five and no more than 10.

Each WRCP contract shall terminate upon expiration of the time period specified in the contract.

(2) The water right owner or operator shall not be required to maintain the diversion works or delivery system during the period of the WRCP contract. If the pump is removed from a well, the well shall be properly capped or sealed during the contract. These requirements shall be in addition to those made by the Kansas department of health and environment pursuant to the groundwater exploration and protection act, K.S.A. 82a-1201 et seq., and amendments thereto.

(3) A certificate determining the extent to which a water right has been perfected shall be issued by the chief engineer before entering the water right into the WRCP if all of the following conditions are met:

(A) An applicant has a permit to appropriate water for beneficial use and has perfected all, or any portion, of the water right authorized by the permit.

(B) The time in which to perfect the water right has expired, including any authorized extensions of time.

(C) A field inspection has been completed.

(4) If the time to perfect the water right, or any authorized extension of that right, has not expired, enrollment in the WRCP shall be considered as suspending the time to perfect. Upon expiration of the WRCP contract pertaining to this water right, the time to perfect shall again commence, and the applicant shall be required to perfect the water right within the remainder of the time allowed to perfect, or any authorized extension of that time.

(5) Each year after authorized enrollment in the WRCP, the water use correspondent shall indicate on the water use report that no water was used because the water right was enrolled in the WRCP.

(6) If the owner breaches, or causes or allows a breach of, the WRCP contract with the chief engineer, each year of nonuse between the effective date of the contract and the date of the breach shall be counted as years of nonuse without due and sufficient cause for the purpose of determining whether or not the water right has been abandoned pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-718, and amendments thereto. Before this penalty is imposed, the owner shall be given an opportunity to show either of the following:

(A) A breach of contract did not occur.

(B) A breach occurred, but either was minor or has been cured, and should not constitute grounds for imposing the penalty. (Authorized by K.S.A. 82a-706a; implementing K.S.A. 82a-706, K.S.A. 82a-713, K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 82a-714, as amended by L. 2009, Ch. 51, § 4, and K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 82a-718; effective July 1, 1994; amended Sept. 22, 2000; amended Dec. 28, 2009.)