



PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Britney Britten
Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District
(806) 883-2501
britney@pgcd.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

98% OF OPERATORS ARE IN COMPLIANCE PGCD'S PRODUCTION RULE

In December of 2018, the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District Board (PGCD) of Directors, changed the implementation of the 1 acre-foot production rule to require all permitted wells producing more than 35 gallons per minute to be metered and to certify contiguous acreage. The 1 acre-foot rule is the longstanding production rule adopted by the District's Board of Directors in 2004 to ensure the District would conserve and preserve the Ogallala Aquifer.

The change in implementation became the District's new Operating Permit process. In 2019, the District worked with operators across its eight counties to get these Operating Permits in place. The District was considerate, fair, and impartial to all permittees by giving time to meter wells and allowing production to be calculated on a 4-year average, which allowed every operator to be measured in the same period with the same metering and permitting criteria.

2023 marked the end of the first 4-year reporting period. District Staff recently completed its evaluation of the 4-year average and is proud to announce that 98% of operators are in compliance with the 1 acre-foot rule. The District would like to congratulate operators on their efforts to conserve our groundwater.

District General Manager, Britney Britten is pleased with the results and looks forward to continuing to work with water users. She said, "PGCD Board has set a reasonable and impartial policy that holds all operating permit holders accountable. One of the great successes of this new permitting system is working with individual operators. I know our Staff and Board have learned a lot through this process. The data collected from these meters not only helps the Board make well-informed decisions, but it also helps us better educate all water users."

For more information, questions, or concerns, please contact: Britney Britten at 806-883-2501 or by email at britney@pgcd.us