# Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District
# Meter Standards
# Amended 6/6/2024

All wells, new or existing, producing more than 35 gallons per minute are required to use one of the following three metering methods *(PGCD Rule 4.4)*:

(1) traditional flow meters;
(2) copies of TCEQ required reports of volumes for municipalities; or
(3) remote monitoring systems that are equipped to record volumes of water.

As stipulated by District rules, one or more permitted wells may be metered using a central meter at the sprinkler, drip irrigation system or central collection point so long as all water produced is measured by one of the approved metering methods. The following Meter Standards apply to metering methods installed on wells required by PGCD Rules located within the District.

## For Traditional Flow Meters:

Acceptable flow meters must have a manufacturer's certification that the flow meter is accurate within +/- 5 percent of actual flow during benchtop calibration. Each flow meter shall be installed, operated, maintained, and repaired in accordance with the flow meter manufacturer's specifications.

**Operator's Responsibilities:**

- Operators are responsible for installing or scheduling installation of flow meters. District staff is available to install flow meters, however operators are required to sign a liability waiver prior to installation. If an operator chooses to install or has another vendor install the flow meter, they must contact the District within five business days of the installation.
- Operators shall submit a photograph of the initial meter register display and gallons per minute indicator annually at the start of the calendar year or beginning of each pumping season.
- Operators shall notify the District within three business days that a flow meter is no longer operating in accordance with the flow meter manufacturer's specification. Again, a liability waiver must be on file before repairs are scheduled or performed by District staff.
- If an operator performs a repair or replacement of a flow meter, they shall notify the District within five business days for the District to perform a site inspection.
- Operators shall provide District staff access to meters during normal business hours for meter readings or maintenance.

**District Responsibilities:**

- District staff members may be responsible for flow meter installations if the operator has signed a liability waiver.

- District staff will affix a unique flow meter identification label and record initial flow meter reading within five business days of a newly installed meter.
- District staff will be responsible for proper maintenance of flow meters. They will also be responsible for repairs and will bill the operators for the cost of parts. Any necessary repairs and/or replacement shall be performed as expeditiously as possible, recognizing that interruption of production during certain periods of operations may have significant negative consequences.

## For Remote Monitoring Systems:

Operators are required to share login information for their remote monitoring control system with District staff members to calculate total annual production. District staff may conduct a spot check to ensure the remote monitoring system is within the +/- 5 percent requirement.

**Operator's Responsibilities:**

- Operators are required to share login information for their remote monitoring system with the District.
- Operators must notify the District when additions or changes to a remote monitoring system are made; for example, if a pivot is added to your account or if the owner/operator relationship has changed. This may include notifying the manufacturer to allow District access to your account.
- Operators must setup necessary information within the remote monitoring system for reporting to function properly (i.e., nozzle packages).

**District Responsibilities:**

- District staff members will use reporting capabilities within the remote monitoring system to calculate total annual production.
- District staff may conduct random flow testing spot checks on wells feeding the pivot to ensure the remote monitoring system is within the +/- 5 percent requirement and to ensure accuracy of the gallons per minute setup by the operator.

## For Municipalities:

Monthly or yearly copies of TCEQ required reporting including the calculations of time and methodology for determining volumes.

In addition to the above requirements, District staff spot checks that result in a flow meter or remote monitoring control system not within +/- 5 percent of flow measured using District instrumentation shall be determined to be out of compliance with these Meter Standards and shall be repaired or replaced as expeditiously as practical.

Meters will be read and recorded at least bi-annually, however, the District may read meters as often as it deems necessary, including but not limited to meters related to permits under enforcement.

## Alternative Method:

In the event, a traditional flow meter is non-operational, was not repaired in a timely manner, or if an operator cannot access RMS data, then the following alternative method must be used to calculate total annual usage.

**Natural Gas Consumption as an Alternative Metering Method:**

- Operators shall provide the total natural gas use on each well within each individual operating permits.
- The monthly use amounts must be converted to MCF if the billing units are in MMBTU (divide the monthly MMBTU use by the BTU Factor to convert).
- The monthly use amounts will be added together and the total yearly MCF's shall be multiplied by .083 (conversion number for MCF to acre-feet) to calculate total acre-feet.
- The operator must supply supporting documentation which must be legible and contain all the following information: name of the energy supplier, gas meter serial number, gas use for every month, meter's unit of measure (MCF or MMBTU), and the BTU Factor when applicable.

**Electric Consumption as an Alternative Metering System:**

- The operator shall provide the total electric consumption on each well within their total contiguous acreage tract, using either multiple electric meters or the combined total electric consumption where only one meter from the power supplier is used for billing.
- The monthly use amounts will be added together and the total yearly KWH's used shall be multiplied by .0011 (conversion number for KWH to acre-feet) to calculate total acre-feet.
- The operator must supply copies of the electricity invoices or complete account summaries for the reporting year.
- The electric meter must be located so it is apparent which wells it serves.