

PMSTPCOL PEmails

From: Kincaid, Charles T [charley.kincaid@pnl.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2009 11:53 AM
To: nhudgins@cbgcd.com
Cc: shorris@co.matagorda.tx.us; ^PNNL NRC South Texas COL; Prasad, Rajiv
Subject: Request for information on "desired future conditions" and "managed available groundwater"

17 April 2009

Mr. Neil Hudgins
General Manager
Coastal Plains Groundwater Conservation District (CPGCD)
Bay City, Texas

Re: "Desired Future Conditions" and "Managed Available Groundwater"

You may recall that we met in February of last year when Rajiv Prasad (PNNL), Hosung Ahn (NRC) and I visited your offices in Bay City and met with Haskell Simon and you. Haskell and you were very generous with your time and briefed us on the CPGCD and groundwater in Texas. We appreciated the introduction to both topics.

Since then Rajiv Prasad and I have been working with Hosung Ahn (NRC) as we prepare the water sections of the Environmental Impact Statement and the Safety Evaluation Report for the proposed STP Units 3 & 4. I've found and mined the web sites of the TWDB, LCRA, and USGS for groundwater related documents. I came across a paper by Robert Mace and his colleagues entitled "A Streetcar Named Desired Future Conditions: The New Groundwater Availability for Texas" and found it very informative with regard to the changing landscape of Texas groundwater and the groundwater districts. I'm sure you've seen the paper and are familiar with the impact of Texas House Bill 1763 which was passed on September 1, 2005.

I'm sending this email in the hope of learning of progress the CPGCD has made in the definition of "desired future conditions" and "managed available groundwater." Mace et al mention that in order to impact ongoing state water planning efforts during the current five-year period of 2007-2012, the groundwater districts would need to provide TWDB with "desired future conditions" in late 2007 or early 2008. This would begin the iterative effort among the TWDB, the regional water planning group, and the groundwater districts to define a consensus value for "managed available groundwater" in each district.

We have proceeded as you and Haskell Simon suggested, and as good form requires, by relying on the published and accepted CPGCD Management Plan of 2004. That Plan includes the following values:

- Amount of useable groundwater from the Gulf Coast aquifer in the District, 49,221 ac-ft/yr (the report notes that little science supports this value)
- Average total groundwater used in the District, 30,233 ac-ft/yr
- Estimate of projected groundwater supplies (based on existing infrastructure), 35,785 ac-ft/yr

However, the paper by Mace et al makes it clear that roles have been reversed, and the "managed available groundwater" value adopted by the district must now be adopted by the regional planning effort. I had the feeling that the District's 2004 plan adopted the 49,221 ac-ft/yr value from the regional water plan because it needed to do so. Now that roles are reversed, I'd like to know if the District has defined "managed available groundwater" and no longer supports the 49,221 ac-ft/yr value.

Anything you can tell me of the District's progress would be helpful. I assume that if "desired future conditions" have been communicated to the TWDB, I'd be able to reference a letter or an email response from you, and describe them in the EIS and SER. If the collaboration with the TWDB has progressed to the point of defining the "managed available groundwater" value, I'd like to use it also; however, I realize that it may be too early in the planning cycle (2007-2012) to have reached that decision, especially because of the needed coordination among groundwater districts in the same regional planning group. Any insight you have at this time on the eventual value of "managed available groundwater" would be appreciated.

Best regards,
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