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Susan K. Duffy, Chair
Dwight D. Keen, Commissioner
Andrew J. French, Commissioner

Laura Kelly, Governor

FIRST QUARTER REPORT

To: Susan K. Duffy, Chair
Dwight D. Keen, Commissioner
Andrew J. French, Commissioner

From: Ryan A. Hoffman, Director, Conservation Division

Date: 3/31/2023

Re: Docket No. 20-CONS-3218-CINV

BACKGROUND

On February 6, 2020, the Commission opened an investigative docket for the purpose of “(1) keeping the public and the Commission apprised of the investigation of Commission Staff into the causes of increased seismic activity occurring in Reno County; and (2) providing a forum by which the Commission may take any advisable action as it relates to increased seismic activity in Reno County.”¹ This is the first quarterly report of 2023.

REPORT

A. Injection Volumes

Class II volumes for calendar year 2022 were required to be provided by March 1, 2023, and will not be updated in this report due to the lack of seismic activity in the investigative area.

B. Earthquakes

According to data obtained from the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS), there were zero earthquakes within the investigative area during the first quarter of 2023.

¹ Docket No. 20-CONS-3218-CINV, ¶A, p. 2.

C. Additional Information

The Governor's Arbuckle Study Group met during the first quarter of 2023. The KCC has provided access to two Class II Arbuckle wells used in conjunction with remediation sites for KGS to use to gather data to further the Arbuckle Study. The first two tests were conducted during 2022. The KCC agreed to provide data from one more Class II well and conducted the test on March 30, 2023. The KGS, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and KCC Staff have not resumed regular monthly meetings.

Recommendation

At this time, Staff makes no recommendation for further Commission action related to the seismicity in Reno County based on the available data. Staff will continue to monitor the injection and earthquake activity within the 15-mile investigation area. Should either of these activities require immediate action, Staff will request the Commission take such action if the Commission does not take the action on its own motion. Finally, Staff will update the information contained herein and supplement it as necessary on a quarterly basis as contemplated by the Commission's order in this docket.