

FOURTH QUARTER REPORT

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

From: Ryan A. Hoffman, Director, Conservation Division

Date: 9/30/2021

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 fourth quarterly report of 2021.

REPORT

A. Injection Volumes

Annual injection volumes comparing Class I and Class II volumes for the investigative area were provided in the prior update. Class II volumes for calendar year 2021 are required to be provided by March 1, 2022, and will not be updated this year unless necessitated by an increase in seismic activity.

B. Earthquakes

According to data obtained from the Kansas Geological Survey, there were zero earthquakes within the investigative area during the fourth quarter of 2021.

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

C. Additional Information

The Governor's Arbuckle Study Group met during the fourth quarter of 2021. The Kansas Geological Survey provided a statewide seismicity update and offered a new study proposal for discussion. The Kansas Geological Survey, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and KCC Staff have discontinued regular monthly meetings and moved the meetings to an as-needed status.

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.