

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

Laura Kelly, Governor

FOURTH QUARTER REPORT

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

From: Ryan A. Hoffman, Director, Conservation Division

Date: 12/30/2020

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.

REPORT

A. Injection Volumes

Staff provided an update to the Commission regarding the volume data for both classes of wells in the investigation area in the third quarter report. There is no update at this time for the fourth quarter regarding the injection volumes for either class of well; however, Staff would note that annual injection volume reports for the Class II wells subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction within the search area for Calendar Year 2020 are due March 1, 2021, pursuant to K.A.R. 82-3-408.

B. Earthquakes

There were no earthquakes reported on the Kansas Geological Survey’s (KGS) website in the investigative area from October 1, 2020 through December 29, 2020.

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

C. Additional Information

Staff has learned that the Kansas Water Office and KGS have agreed to terms for a contract to test proposed study methods at four separate well locations using the funding allocated by the Kansas Water Authority. Details about the tests and wells were not available to Staff as of the writing of this Report.

Recommendation

At this time, Staff makes no recommendation for further Commission action related to the seismicity in Reno County based on the data available. 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.