

**BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

In the matter of a general investigation into	)	Docket No.: 20-CONS-3218-CINV
increased seismic activity in Reno County,	)	
Kansas.	)	CONSERVATION DIVISION
	)	
_____	)	License No.: N/A

**NOTICE OF FILING OF QUARTERLY REPORT**

The Commission's February 6, 2020, Order in this docket directed Staff to file quarterly reports in this docket, with Staff's first report due by March 31, 2020. Pursuant to that Order, Staff files the attached Quarterly Report for March 31, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kelcey A. Marsh  
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## FIRST QUARTER REPORT

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

**From:** Ryan A. Hoffman, Director, Conservation Division

**Date:** 3/31/21

**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.”<sup>1</sup> This is the first quarterly report of 2021.

### **REPORT**

#### A. Injection Volumes

Annual injection volume forms have been filed for the Class II wells regulated by the Commission and the monthly reports for 2020 are available for the Class I wells regulated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. A table comparing total annual volumes for past several years for the two classes of injection wells is included below. The data suggests decreased volumes for both classes of wells.

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<sup>1</sup> Docket No. 20-CONS-3218-CINV, ¶A, p. 2.

## Class I and Class II Comparison for 15-mile Radius Surrounding Reno County Earthquakes

Class I = 10 wells    Class II = 25 wells

Year	Class I Annual Volume (barrels)	Class II Annual Volume (barrels)	Class I Monthly Average (barrels)	Class II Monthly Average (barrels)
2014	19,245,053	13,577,477	1,603,754.40	1,131,456.42
2015	20,051,154	14,842,795	1,670,929.46	1,236,899.58
2016	20,291,175	13,863,791	1,690,931.29	1,155,315.92
2017	19,524,792	14,081,320	1,627,065.97	1,173,443.33
2018	19,435,893	14,017,617	1,619,657.77	1,168,134.75
2019	19,801,720	13,438,688	1,650,143.34	1,119,890.67
2020	18,326,859	12,097,517	1,527,238.25	1,008,126.42

### B. Earthquakes

There was one earthquake reported on the Kansas Geological Survey's (KGS) website in the investigative area from January 1, 2021 through March 30, 2021. The earthquake was a magnitude 2.7 and it occurred on February 15, 2021.

### C. Additional Information

The Governor's Arbuckle Study Group met on February 16, 2021. KGS briefly outlined the types of tests it planned to run on three Class II wells in the study area to help fully develop a proposed study. Since that time, KCC Staff has put KGS in touch with another Class II operator who will potentially offer some of its wells for the study.

### **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.