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Ground water monitoring proposal from POW moves to higher level decision makers

The El Paso County Denver Basin Aquifer Monitoring Program, sponsored by Protect Our Wells (POW) and authored by local hydrogeologist Julia Murphy of Groundwater Investigations, passed the review of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable Needs Assessment Committee. It will now go on to be heard by all 53 Arkansas Basin Roundtable members at the May 14 meeting, 12:30 p.m.

For details and directions to the Roundtable meeting see <http://ibcc.state.cc.us/Basins/Arkansas>. Basin Roundtable meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

The proposal is to initiate monitoring of wells in Northern and Eastern El Paso County in

the Dawson, Denver, Arapahoe and Laramie Fox-Hills Aquifer. After three years, the State Engineer's Office will administer the data collection.

On Tuesday, May 7 the Upper Black Squirrel Groundwater Management District voted unanimously to support the proposed groundwater monitoring project. They are in the process of drafting a letter of support which will be combined with the 36 page application that will go to each Roundtable member for review and approval.

Supported by the State Engineer, the proposal is to monitor 35 existing wells and install 12 dedicated monitoring wells to evaluate changes in the groundwater supply in the

Denver Basin in El Paso County. The study area includes all of El Paso County and southern portion of Ellicott.

Not all portions of the Denver Basin Aquifers are expected to deplete at the same rate. By identifying areas at greater risk for depletions the information can be used to implement strategies to prolong non-renewable aquifer life and move toward obtaining informed, comprehensive groundwater management for area residents dependent on water wells in Denver Basin aquifers.