

CHAPTER 4 – INSTALLATION AND USE OF FLOW METERS

4-1 Flow Meters Required. Flow meters shall be permanently installed on all regulated water wells within the overappropriated area of the District on or before May 1, 2008. All lands lying within the Pumpkin Creek Basin Ground Water Management Sub-Area, as defined in Order NPNRD-4, are exempt from Chapter 4 of these rules and regulations.

Flow meters must be capable of measuring all the ground water pumped by that well or by all wells hooked in a series for each certified use. If a water well is used for more than one purpose, the flow meter must be capable of measuring the amount of ground water pumped for each certified use.

4-2 Flow Meter Specifications and Installations Instructions. A flow meter must be installed at each regulated well. Exceptions to this rule that may be considered and approved by the District staff are cases such as multiple wells serving one pivot. A list of recommended flow meter brands that have been approved by the Board for installation and use within the overappropriated area will be kept current and available to all landowners at the District office at P.O. Box 280, 100547 Airport Road, Scottsbluff, Nebraska, 69361. Only meters included on such list will be allowed and considered conforming flow meters. Each flow meter shall be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications and calibrated to the pipe size to achieve the accuracy required by the flow meter standard. The meter registry shall have a visual volume recording totalizer that shall record acre-inches for irrigation wells and total gallons pumped for other regulated wells. In addition, flow meters must meet the following requirements:

1. The registry shall be protected from the elements.
2. Totalizers shall have sufficient capacity to record for the period of one (1) year the quantity of water pumped from each well.
3. Totalizers shall be direct reading and the multiplier shall be clearly indicated in which the rate of flow can be determined by timing.
4. The meter size, serial number, and the direction of flow shall be clearly stamped on the body of the meter.
5. The inside pipe diameter for which the meter has been calibrated shall be clearly shown on the meter to the nearest 0.001 of an inch.
6. The flow meter shall be located in an easily accessible location for meter reading and maintenance.
7. Backflow devices will be required where reverse flow creates meter reading errors.

Accurately measuring flow meters installed prior to the effective date of these rules are exempt from the specifications contained herein. Any flow meters that are not on the approved list of meters shall be designated as non-conforming flow meters. When any such non-conforming flow meter is replaced, the replacement flow meter must be included on the approved list of meters and conform to the specifications contained herein. In any event, all non-conforming flow meters must be replaced with flow meters that conform to the specifications listed above within ten (10) years from the effective date of these rules and regulations.

4-3 Flow Meter Violations, Inspections, and Maintenance. Except as specifically provided herein, it shall be a violation of these rules and regulations for any person to willfully injure, alter, remove, reset, adjust, manipulate, obstruct, or in any manner interfere with or tamper with

a flow meter without District consent, or to cause, procure, or direct any other person to do so. Removing any seal placed on a meter by the District will be considered tampering with a meter.

Once a flow meter is sealed by the District, it cannot be removed without notifying the District in advance. Each flow meter must be kept in working order and clear of debris, vegetative growth, or other material that would impede operation.

Any malfunctioning flow meter must be reported to the District office in Scottsbluff, Nebraska by calling (308) 632-2749 within twenty-four (24) hours after discovery. Malfunctioning flow meters discovered on any day other than working days (weekends and holidays) shall be reported before the District office closes on the first working day following the discovery. During the malfunctioning period, the owner shall use a method approved by the District to determine water consumption while the flow meter is being repaired. The owner and/or operator is responsible for all maintenance and repairs of their flow meter(s) and shall make all diligent effort to put it back into service as soon as reasonable, or to replace it if it cannot be repaired.

When flow meters are removed for servicing or replacement, the landowner or operator must keep records of the flow meter reading.

4-4 Enforcement. The rules and regulations in Chapter 4 shall be enforced by the District through the use of cease and desist orders or other measures as provided for in Chapter 2.

Chapter 4—Installation and Use of Flow Meters was adopted by Order No. NPNRD-12 by the North Platte NRD Board of Directors on March 8, 2007 and effective April 5, 2007.