

NEWS RELEASE: March 4, 2011

### **Greene County groundwater study presentation Monday**

The US Geological Survey will present the results of a comprehensive study of Greene County's groundwater supply Monday, March 7, 1-3 p.m. at the Greene County Elections Center, 1126 Boonville Ave., Springfield.

USGS Hydrologists Joe Richards and John Schumacher will present the results of the four-year study, titled "Groundwater Flow Model and Effects of Projected Groundwater Use in the Ozark Plateaus Aquifer System in the Vicinity of Greene County, Missouri, 1987-2030." The survey, the first of its kind since 1987, maps current groundwater levels and estimates 20-year projections in Greene County as well as portions of Dade, Polk, Dallas, Laclede, Webster, Douglas, Christian, Stone, Barry and Lawrence counties.

"Our region depends upon wells to supply our homes, businesses and farms with clean, adequate water," said Tim Smith, Greene County Administrator. "It's critical that we know the current status of our groundwater, particularly after two decades of rapid development in the Ozarks, so we can protect our water supplies for years to come."

The \$573,000 groundwater study was conducted by the USGS, in conjunction with the US Army Corps of Engineers. It was funded a combination of sources, including:

- A \$250,000 federal grant secured by 7<sup>th</sup> District Congressman Roy Blunt in 2005.
- Matching funds from Greene County, City Utilities of Springfield, and the City of Springfield.
- Contributions and in-kind services from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, USGS and the cities of Fair Grove, Ozark, Nixa, Republic, Rogersville, Willard and Walnut Grove.

The groundwater study results were first presented in November, at a water conference in Springfield. "We're having a second presentation to make sure the all the area municipalities and interested residents have the opportunity to see the study results and ask questions," said Smith.

The complete results of the groundwater study may be viewed at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2010/5227/>

For more information, contact Greene County Administrator Tim Smith at 417-868-4873 or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-829-6019 or 417-224-5510.

###