

NEWS RELEASE: Nov. 17, 2010

Greene County groundwater study to be presented Thursday at water conference

The U.S. Geological Survey will present the results of a comprehensive study of Greene County's groundwater supply Thursday, Nov. 18, 3 p.m., at the Doubletree Hotel, 2431 N. Glenstone Ave., Springfield.

USGS Hydrologist Joe Richards 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," at the Missouri State University/Tri-State Water Resource Coalition's annual regional water conference at the Doubletree Hotel.

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:

- \$250,000 federal grant secured by 7th 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 Ozark, Nixa, Republic, Rogersville, Willard and Walnut Grove.

The groundwater study is one of several presentations and panel discussions planned for the two-day water conference, titled "Water: a Finite Resource in a Growing Region." The conference is held Nov. 18, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Nov. 19, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Registration for the conference is \$65 for one day, \$95 for both days, and includes breakfast, lunch and snacks. Accredited members of the media may attend the conference without registration.

For more information about the water conference, visit <http://csii.missouristate.edu/waterconference1110>; or call conference coordinator Gail Melgren at 417-836-3701 or 417-766-9499. For more information about the groundwater study, 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.

Attached: Water conference agenda (pdf)

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