

HOUSE BILL No. 2363

By Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

2-15

1 AN ACT concerning water; relating to wastewater regulations; relating to
2 aggregate mining operations; amending K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 82a-734
3 and repealing the existing section.
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 New Section 1. Any rules and regulations adopted by the secretary of
7 health and environment pursuant to K.S.A. 65-171d, and amendments
8 thereto, shall not apply to land-based sand and gravel pits or aggregate
9 mining operations utilizing washwater ponds if the only water or
10 wastewater directed to the dredge pit or washwater pond consists of the
11 following:

- 12 (a) Dredge return flows;
- 13 (b) flows generated from aggregate classification; or
- 14 (c) flows from washing aggregate, if water used in such flows is
15 returned to the dredge pit or washwater pond.

16 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 82a-734 is hereby amended to read as
17 follows: 82a-734. (a) An operator shall notify the chief engineer of the
18 location and area extent of any existing or proposed sand and gravel pit to
19 be excavated, expanded or operated by the operator.

20 (b) The net evaporation of water exposed as the result of the opening
21 or operation of sand and gravel pits shall be construed to be a beneficial
22 use or diversion of water for the purposes of the Kansas water
23 appropriation act, K.S.A. 82a-701 et seq., and amendments thereto, if the
24 sand and gravel pit is opened or operated in a township where the average
25 annual potential net evaporation is greater than 18 inches per year, as
26 determined by the chief engineer.

27 (c) If the chief engineer determines that an existing or proposed sand
28 and gravel pit operation is a beneficial use of water, the operator shall
29 apply to the chief engineer for a permit to appropriate water in accordance
30 with the Kansas water appropriation act or otherwise acquire ownership or
31 control of sufficient water rights, or by other methods pursuant to rules and
32 regulations adopted by the chief engineer, or both, to offset net evaporation
33 for the operation. The chief engineer may reduce this required offset based
34 on the estimated use of groundwater by the existing vegetation.

35 (d) (1) The permit shall authorize net evaporation as the primary use,
36 and hydraulic dredging and sand washing as secondary uses of water if

1 such secondary uses are located within the same source of supply and are
2 associated with the operation. Any secondary uses shall use water in a
3 manner in which there is no significant net consumptive use. The permit
4 shall not be subject to the installation of a water flow meter or
5 administration of minimum desirable stream flow. *In areas of the state not*
6 *subject to subsection (b), the chief engineer shall only issue a permit for*
7 *secondary uses.*

8 (2) The secondary uses shall be granted for the proposed life of the
9 project or until the exhaustion of sand and gravel reserves. At the end of
10 the industrial project, the owner shall file an application authorized by
11 K.S.A. 82a-708b, and amendments thereto, to change the primary use
12 made of water to recreational use to authorize the net evaporation use
13 caused by the exposed groundwater.

14 (3) If a permit is denied, the chief engineer shall set forth all reasons
15 for such denial.

16 (4) Any applicant who is denied a project permit by a final order of
17 the chief engineer under this section may appeal such order in the manner
18 provided by the Kansas judicial review act.

19 (5) Any application for a project permit shall be accompanied by a
20 filing fee of \$500 and any request for modification shall be accompanied
21 by a fee of \$250. Applicants for a project permit under this section shall
22 not be required to pay fees pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-708a and 82a-708c, and
23 amendments thereto, as part of such application.

24 (e) (1) The initial period of time allowed to complete construction of
25 diversion works pursuant to an approved application to appropriate water
26 for the purpose of net evaporation from a sand and gravel pit operation
27 shall be reasonable and consistent with the proposed use. The chief
28 engineer may allow extension of such period by not to exceed two 10-year
29 extensions if it can be shown that the operation requires the additional time
30 for the operator to satisfy the operator's market demand in the area. The
31 two 10-year extensions may be granted at the same time, to run
32 consecutively, if the applicant submits to the chief engineer a written
33 development plan.

34 (2) The period of time allowed to perfect an approved application to
35 appropriate water for the purpose of net evaporation from a sand and
36 gravel pit operation shall be not less than 20 years and, for good cause
37 shown, the chief engineer may allow one or more 10-year extensions of
38 such period. The chief engineer shall consider the time needed until
39 exhaustion of proven reserves, closure in accordance with the surface land
40 reclamation and mining act, K.S.A. 49-601 et seq., and amendments
41 thereto, and the availability of water for the proposed use, but in no case
42 shall allow longer than 80 years for perfection.

43 (3) Nothing herein shall require an extension of time to construct

1 diversion works or to perfect a water right if there is demonstrable
2 impairment of a use under an existing water right from the same source of
3 supply, as determined pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-711, and amendments
4 thereto.

5 (4) Upon examination of the diversion works for sand and gravel
6 operations, the chief engineer or the chief engineer's duly authorized
7 representative shall, within 90 days of the examination, notify the
8 applicant if there was a failure to construct the diversion works at the
9 authorized location or any deficiency of the terms and conditions of the
10 permit. This notice will provide steps necessary to gain compliance with
11 state law. If the chief engineer fails to examine the diversion works within
12 two years of the notice of completion for any sand and gravel operation
13 diversion works, the applicant shall not be required to forfeit priority date
14 as a result of failure to construct a diversion works at the authorized
15 location or any deficiency of the terms and conditions of the permit.

16 (f) Net evaporation from sand and gravel pits, as calculated by the
17 chief engineer, will be reported as an industrial use to the director of
18 taxation for the purpose of assessing the water protection fee pursuant to
19 K.S.A. 82a-954, and amendments thereto.

20 (g) This section shall be part of and supplemental to the Kansas water
21 appropriations act.

22 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 82a-734 is hereby repealed.

23 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
24 publication in the statute book.