



NEWS RELEASE

North Dakota State Water Commission

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State Water Commission to Conduct Airborne Electromagnetic Survey over the Spiritwood Aquifer

The North Dakota State Water Commission is planning to conduct an aerial electromagnetic survey (AEM) of the Spiritwood aquifer, east of Jamestown, ND. The survey involves a helicopter towing an antenna about 100 feet above the ground that sends and receives electromagnetic signals to characterize the geology beneath the surface. The results will provide a high resolution map of the Spiritwood aquifer, a major groundwater supply in the area. The map will help water managers identify and optimize local sources of available groundwater.

“We want the public and residents living near the area to be informed about the survey,” said Jon Patch, Director of Water Appropriations for the Office of the State Engineer. “The company hired to collect the data is an industry leader worldwide. AEM has proven to be a safe, dependable, and cost-effective way to collect an enormous amount of data and may revolutionize the way we do data collection in the future. It’s leading edge stuff.”

The geophysical data will be collected by the helicopter flying in a grid pattern in an area about 5 miles wide, extending from Wallum in the north, to Montpelier in the south. The helicopter will traverse the area at intervals of about a quarter mile. “The flight survey should take about two to three weeks to complete and we hope to wrap up field data collection before the end of October, weather permitting,” said Patch.

Please direct enquiries to Jessie Wald, Public Information Officer, North Dakota State Water Commission.