LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district

3125 Portia Street | P.O. Box 83581 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3581 | P: 402.476.2729 • F: 402.476.6454 | www.lpsnrd.org

Contact: Mike Mascoe
mmascoe@lpsnrd.org

LPSNRD Sets Monolith Open House

Lincoln (NE) June 3, 2021 – The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) will host an Open House for anyone with questions about Monolith Materials' pending applications for three water well permits. The Open House will be at the Hallam Village Auditorium Meeting Room, on Tuesday, June 15th. LPSNRD staff will be there to answer questions from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM. There will be no formal presentation.

Monolith has applied to LPSNRD for constructing three wells to support expansion of its manufacturing plant near Hallam. To protect existing water users in the area, Monolith, under LPSNRD's Groundwater Rules and Regulations, must show the proposed wells will not adversely impact the aquifer or nearby higher preference wells (an excerpt from LPSNRD Groundwater Rules and Regulations is attached, along with a locater map). LPSNRD has created a brief summary (attached) of Monolith's proposal and a link is available at LPSNRD.org/programs/groundwater/well-permits,
or the summary can be mailed upon request by phoning (402) 476-2729.

After testing and analysis by Monolith over a nine-month period, the LPSNRD Board of Directors announced in May it has all of the technical information it needs to consider the three Monolith well permit applications, but the Board also wants public input. The June 15th Open House in Hallam will be followed by a virtual/in-person public meeting on Thursday, June 17th, from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM, during which the LPSNRD Board will hear public comments. The public may access the June 17th virtual meeting on their own though a link at LPSNRD.org or watch it and participate in-person at the district office, 3125 Portia Street, Lincoln. Written comments about the well permit applications are also being accepted by email, at mmascoe@lpsnrd.org. Written comments may also be sent via U.S. Mail to:

Lower Platte South NRD
P O Box 83581
3125 Portia Street
Lincoln, NE 68501-3581

All emailed and mailed comments must be received by June 17th.

Following the June 17th meeting, the Water Resources Subcommittee of the LPSNRD Board will meet virtually on June 22nd to consider a recommendation to the full Board. The June 22nd subcommittee meeting will be available to public access through a link at LPSNRD.org, but no in-person site will be offered. The Monolith application is expected to get final consideration by the full Board during a virtual/in-person Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 29th, starting at 5:30 PM. Again, the public may access the June 29th virtual meeting on their own through a link at LPSNRD.org or watch it and participate in-person at the district office.

Summary of June LPSNRD events related to the Monolith well permit considerations:

- June 15th, 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM – Open House, Hallam Village Auditorium Meeting Room, Hallam, NE
- June 17th, 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM – Public Input Meeting, virtual public access on your own or watch and participate in-person at the district office, 3125 Portia Street, Lincoln
- June 22nd, 5:30 PM – Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting, virtual public access on your own, no in-person site will be offered
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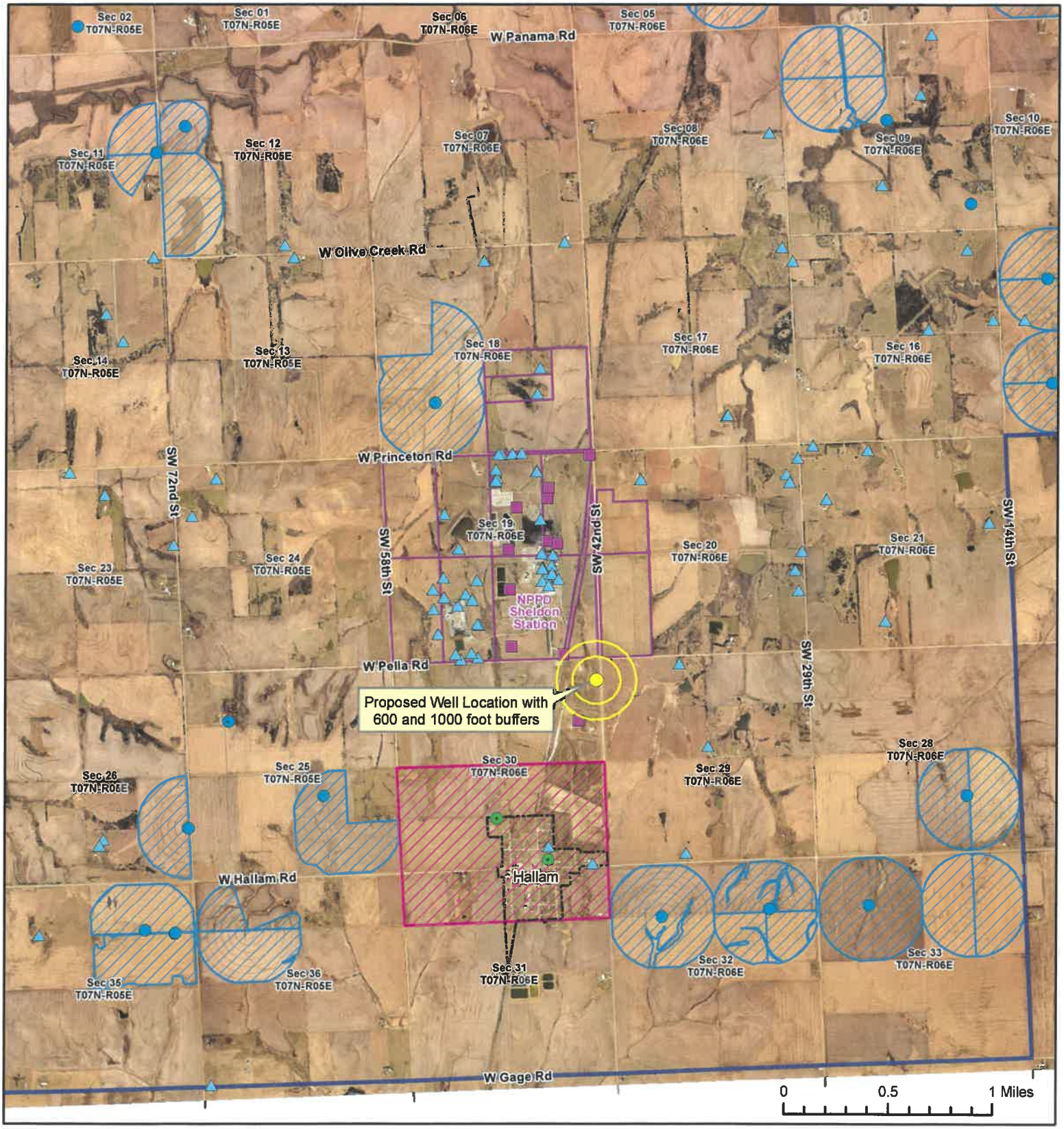
Anyone interested in being a part of these meetings should check LPSNRD.org within one week of each meeting to get meeting links and confirm details about public access, locations, times, etc. Phone (402) 476-2729 with questions.

-30-

Well Permit Review - Monolith
NE Sec 30, T7N-R6E, Lancaster



Map By:
LPSNRD, sdr
6/26/2020

- Proposed Well Location
- Well Spacing Buffers
- LPSNRD Boundary
- Town Boundary
- Certified Irr Acres
- CWSPA
- NPPD Parcels

Reg Wells
- Irrigation
- Commercial
- Public Water Supply
- Other Wells

Section C – Water Well Permits

Rule 3 Granting, Denying or Cancelling a Water Well Permit in a Ground Water Reservoir

(a) An application for a permit or late permit for any water well in a Ground Water Reservoir shall be granted unless the District finds any of the following conditions:

(i) The location or operation of the proposed water well or other work would conflict with any regulations or controls adopted by the District or of other applicable laws of the State of Nebraska;

(ii) The proposed use would not be a beneficial use of water for domestic, agricultural, manufacturing, or industrial purposes;

(iii) The applicant refuses to cooperate with the District in ground water monitoring activities;

(iv) An applicant refuses to equip the well with a water well flow meter;

(v) In the case of a late permit only, that the applicant did not act in good faith by failing to obtain a timely permit;

(vi) For a Class 1 Permit:

(A) The total dissolved solids from a water quality sample taken at the end of a 24-hour pump test are 2500 parts per million or more, and an applicant does not choose to apply for a salt water well permit.

(B) An applicant shall have the option to apply for a salt water well permit prior to denial of the permit.

(vii) For a Class 2 Permit:

(A) The hydrogeologic analysis indicates potential short or long-term detrimental effects to the aquifer and/or if the drawdown as determined by an aquifer test would adversely affect a nearby well with a higher preference of use; and/or

(B) The total dissolved solids from a water quality sample taken at the end of a 24-hour pump test are 2500 parts per million or more, and the applicant does not choose to apply for a salt water well permit.

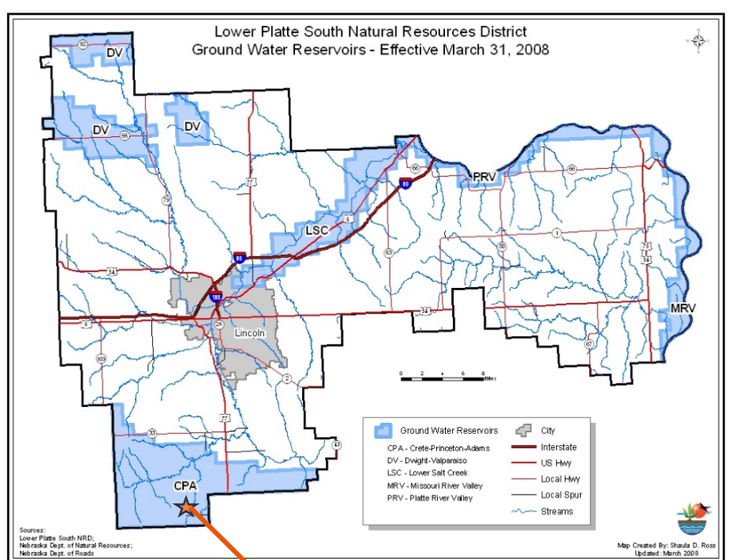
(C) An applicant shall have the option to apply for a salt water well permit prior to denial of the permit.

(viii) For a Salt Water Well Permit:

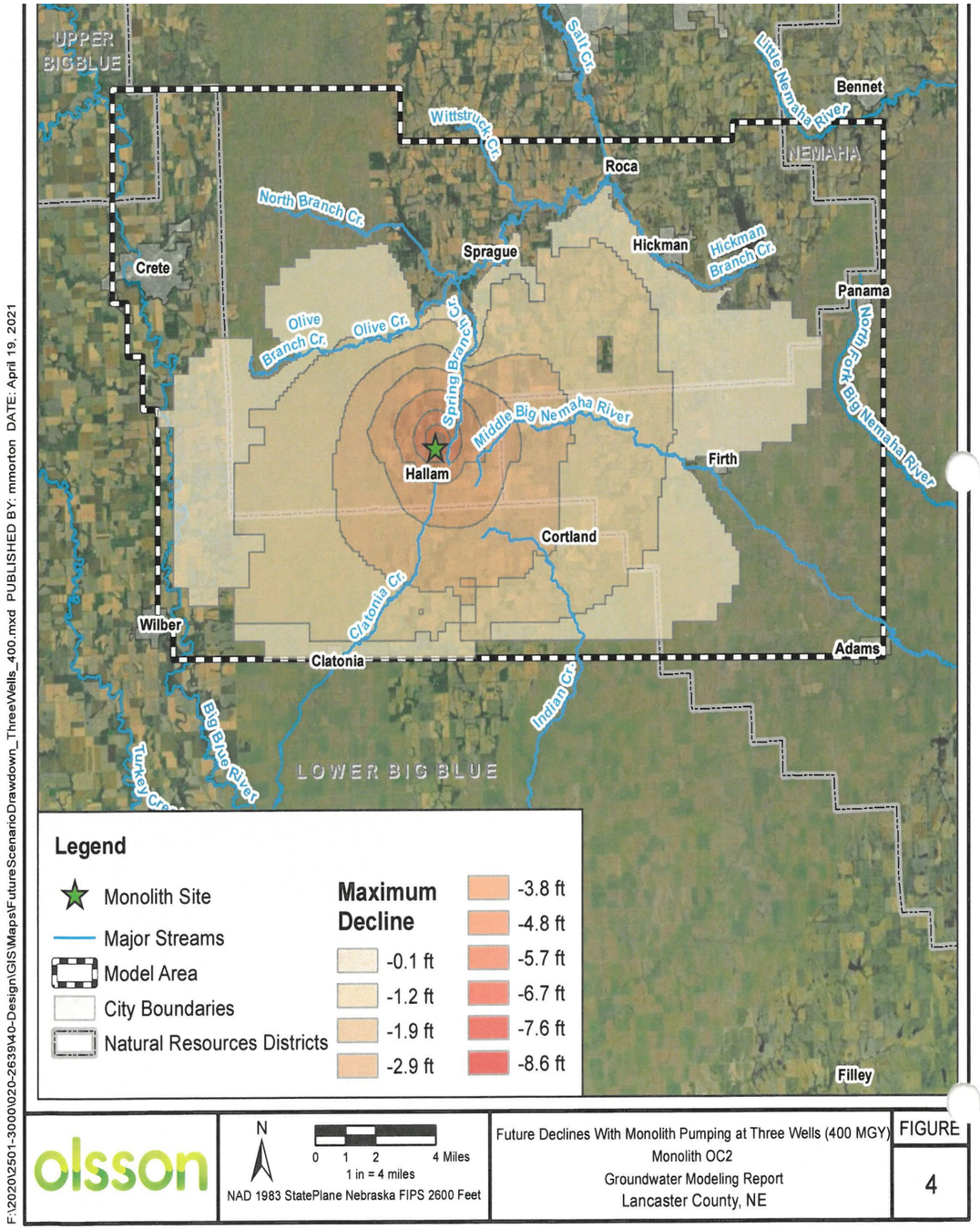
(A) The water quality samples indicate the potential for salt water intrusion.

Facts About Monolith Well Permit Application

- Monolith plans to pump 320 to 400 million gallons per year (MGY) with its three wells for industrial cooling in the production of carbon black when OC2 reaches full production in 2024
- LPSNRD calls the aquifer in this area the Crete-Princeton-Adams (CPA) Groundwater Reservoir (see map below)
- Wells pumping this amount of water and located in the CPA are designated as Class II under current LPSNRD regulations
  - Applications for Class II well permits must include the following information:
    - Copy of the well log to determine the geologic formations present
    - Accurate static water level
    - Aquifer test supervised by a licensed professional geologist or engineer with experience in water resources evaluation
    - Water quality analysis for sodium, chloride, and total dissolved solids (TDS) sampled after a 24-hour pump test and completed by a qualified laboratory
    - Hydrogeologic analysis considering the impact of the proposed withdrawal for a minimum 20-year period, also supervised by a licensed professional geologist or engineer
  - Monolith hired EA Engineering of Lincoln to oversee installation of the production and observation wells and perform the aquifer test, and Olsson, Inc. of Lincoln to perform groundwater modeling and complete the hydrogeologic analysis
    - Olsson modeled the effects of Monolith pumping for a 50-year period
    - Olsson's report also includes a proposed Groundwater Monitoring Plan and a Groundwater Protection Plan for nearby privately-owned water wells
  - LPSNRD hired LRE Water of Minneapolis and Denver to provide independent peer review of the hydrogeologic data and report
  - At maximum pumping (400 MGY), Olsson's report predicts a water level drop of 8.6 feet in the immediate vicinity of the Monolith wells, about 3 feet within a mile, and only a few inches within several miles of the plant (see map at right)
  - LPSNRD will not require Monolith to complete an additional hydrogeologic analysis for Wells #2 and #3 (variance granted May 19, 2021)
  - LPSNRD will take action on the Monolith well permit applications at a special Board of Directors meeting on June 29, 2021



Hallam



F:\2020\2501-3000\020-2639\40-Design\GIS\Maps\FutureScenarioDrawdown_ThreeWells_400.mxd PUBLISHED BY: mmorton DATE: April 19, 2021

olsson

N

0 1 2 4 Miles

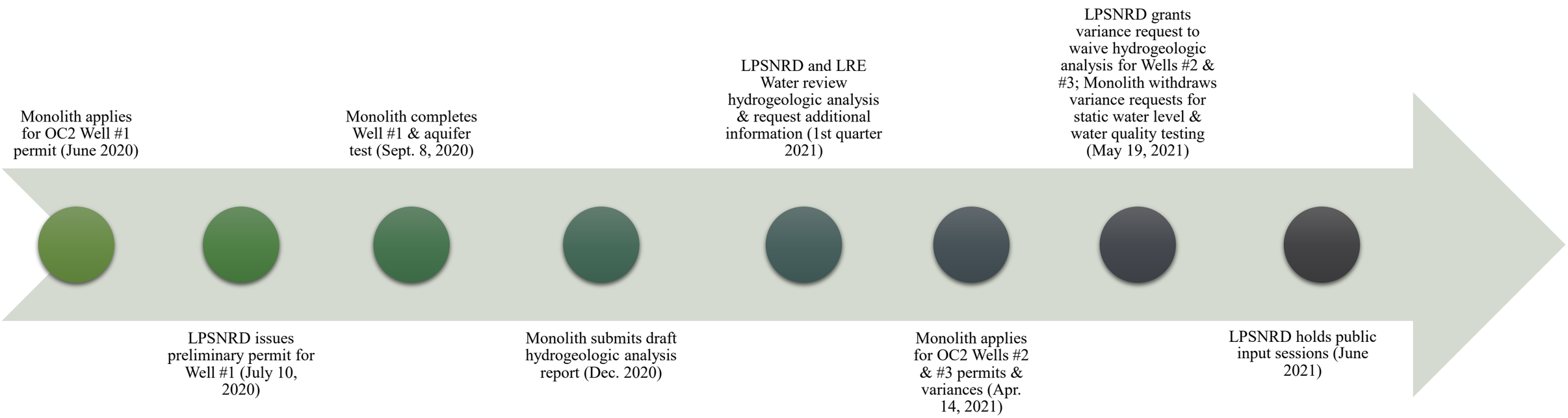
1 in = 4 miles

NAD 1983 StatePlane Nebraska FIPS 2600 Feet

Future Declines With Monolith Pumping at Three Wells (400 MGY)
Monolith OC2
Groundwater Modeling Report
Lancaster County, NE

FIGURE 4

Monolith Well Permit Application Chronology, June 2020-Present



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