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2024 Arkansas Groundwater Protection and Management Report: Arkansas Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Commission Announces Release

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The Arkansas Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Commission ("NRC") has released the 2024 Groundwater Protection and Management Report ("Report").

The NRC states that the report summarizes for 2024:

- Groundwater monitoring.
- Current water levels.
- Conservation programs.
- Water use.

By way of background, the Arkansas General Assembly had previously delegated responsibility for state water sources planning to the predecessor organization for the Arkansas Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division – the Arkansas Solid Waste Conservation Commission in 1969. Therefore, the current NRC has primary responsibility for addressing a variety of issues related to the use of water in the state of Arkansas.

The Report notes that the NRC is responsible for groundwater:

- State-level planning.
- Management.
- Protection.

This is stated to be accomplished through:

- Monitoring aquifer water levels and water quality.
- Implementing best management practices.
- Conservation.
- Enforcing the proper construction of water wells.
- Education.

The components of the 2024 Report include:

- Introduction
- Water Policy

- Hydrogeology and Water Level Trends
- Mississippi River Valley Alluvial Aquifer
- Precipitation and Weather Events
- Water Level Trends
- Sparta/Memphis Aquifer
- Water Level Trends
- Cockfield and Wilcox Aquifers
- Groundwater Quality
- Groundwater Use
- Water Conservation Tax Incentive Program
- Summary

A copy of the Report can be downloaded <u>here</u>.