

David Pope leaves Water Resources

After 24 years of dedicated service as Chief Engineer with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources (DWR), David Pope has retired as of June 18. David has accepted the position as executive director of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes.



Prior to joining the Kansas Department of Agriculture, he worked for the KSU Extension from 1971 to 1976. He then became the first manager of Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3, serving from August 1976 to October 1978. He began at the Department of Agriculture in 1978 and in 1983 was appointed Chief

Engineer. He is only the fourth person to serve as chief engineer since the position was created in 1927, and his 24 years make him the longest serving Chief Engineer in the state's history.

As Chief Engineer, he was in charge of the state's programs governing the quantity of water appropriated for beneficial use in the state. DWR administers statutes, rules and regulations dealing with water appropriation and water structures.

Pope has been the state's representative on four interstate water compacts affecting major Kansas rivers. He served on the litigation team in the Kansas v. Colorado case from December 1985 to the present and the Kansas litigation team in Kansas v. Nebraska and Colorado, leading Kansas to successful settlements.

Under David's tenure, DWR adopted a safe yield standard for

approving new water permits throughout most of Kansas to ensure a reliable water supply. He has been the state's representative on the Missouri River Basin Association and its successors, association with the purpose of identifying, discussing and making recommendations to the Corps of Engineers on management of water in the Missouri River Basin.

Several Intensive Groundwater Use Control areas were also created under his leadership to shut off some areas to new appropriation of water to slow or halt depletion of supplies in the areas.

He has implemented what is considered the best water use reporting system in the U.S. and assisted with the passage of legislation allowing water banking, flexible appropriations and enforcement.

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