

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | July 2, 2024

DWR to conduct Airborne Electromagnetic Survey over parts of Cass, Richland, Ransom, and Sargent Counties

BISMARCK, ND - The North Dakota Department of Water Resources (DWR) is planning to conduct an aerial electromagnetic survey (AEM) of aquifers in parts of four counties in southeastern North Dakota as early as the week of July 8, 2024. The surveys involve a helicopter towing a large hoop-shaped antenna approximately 100 feet above the ground. The antenna sends and receives electromagnetic signals to characterize geology beneath the land surface.

The results of the survey will provide imagery and characteristics of subsurface materials that can aid in the mapping of buried glacial aquifer deposits that contain major groundwater supplies.

"AEM surveys have become an important tool in groundwater investigations," DWR Director Andrea Travnicek said. "The large amount of data we have collected over the past several years has been used to make sound scientific decisions concerning the management, investigation and appropriation of the state's groundwater resources."

The flight survey will include approximately 1,455 flight miles flown in a grid pattern with primarily east-west trending flight lines spaced 500 to 2,000 meters apart, for a total area of 1,360 square miles.

The DWR AEM study will be conducted by the specialty airborne geophysical survey company **Aqua Geo Frameworks, LLC. (AGF)** and their affiliates. The helicopter will be operated by pilots who are specially trained for the low-level flying required for geophysical surveys. The contractors work with the FAA to ensure flights are safe and in accordance with U.S. law. Surveys do not occur directly above populated areas.

For more information, go to **[Department of Water Resources \(nd.gov\)](https://www.nd.gov)**.

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