

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A six-year moratorium on new water rights in Kansas for the Ozarks aquifer has been lifted after a study showed far more available water than what was being used. David Barfield of the state Department of Agriculture's water resources division says a U.S. Geological Survey study shows the aquifer can support three times more water use than is currently authorized. That's good news for places like Pittsburg, which relies heavily upon the aquifer for its municipal water supply. Barfield says lifting the moratorium assures southeast Kansas communities there will plenty of water to meet their expanding needs. The aquifer also serves southwest Missouri and northeast Oklahoma. Officials say Missouri uses nearly 90 percent of all water pumped from the aquifer and could face shortages with increased usage.