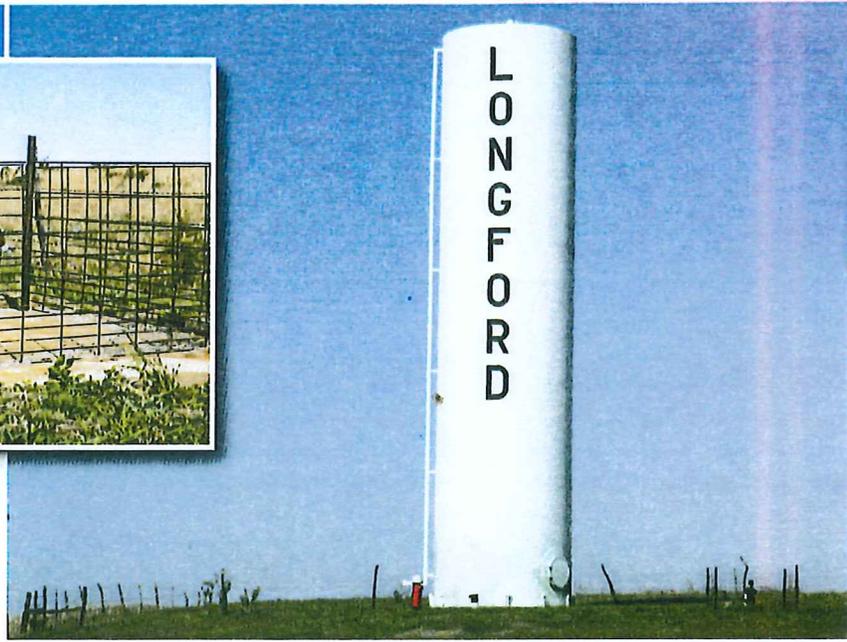
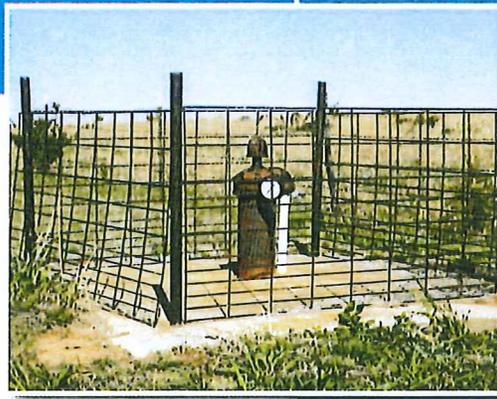


These photos show the one of the pitless unit wells and the water storage tank in Longford. Longford, located in southern Clay County, pumps water from the Dakota Aquifer. The town is also home to the Longford Water Company. That bottled water has placed high in national competitions for bottled water.



Chanute, like Emporia, draws water from the Neosho River. This photo shows the city's water plant. The second photo shows the clarification and softening basins. Chanute's plant is rated at 6.0 MGD; average usage is in the range of 2.0 MGD.



Judges for the 2016 Taste Test were (left to right) Shane' Hastings, Director of Community Programs at USDA Rural Development; David Grimm, city of Hiawatha, and Gary Smith, former USDA Rural Development Program Chief and now with Schwab - Eaton, P.A., Manhattan. Dan Clemens, HD Waterworks Supply, McPherson, KS was also a judge; Dan was presenting in a training session at the time this photo was taken.

Third place in the 2016 Taste Test contest went to the city of Chanute. As with Emporia, the source of water for Chanute is the Neosho River. The city operates a lime softening plant rated at 6.0 MGD. Average usage in the city is around 2.0 MGD with peak usage at about 2.5 MGD. Lime and other coagulants are added for softening and enhanced settling. Free chlorine is used as the primary disinfectant followed by combined chlorine as a maintenance residual in the distribution system. Six state certified operators are responsible for around the clock operation of the water treatment plant.

Congratulations to the three winners. KRWA appreciates the interest in the Taste Test. Thanks to all of the systems that brought samples to the 2016 KRWA conference for the competition. The city of Emporia will represent Kansas in the Great American Taste Test next February in Washington, D.C.