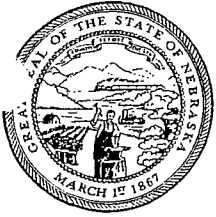


STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

October 26, 2004

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

RECEIVED

Gayle Haag, Board Chair
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
P.O. Box 81
Curtis, NE 69025

Dear Mr. Haag:

We have received and reviewed your proposed modifications to the draft integrated management plan and associated rules. We have made further changes to your proposed draft that are shown in redline format on the attached document. Acknowledging that the Department and the NRD are placing heavy reliance on water conservation programs which will require local, state and federal cost share money, the attached draft of the joint integrated management plan and associated rules are acceptable to the Department.

As we discussed during the development of the proposed integrated management plan and associated rules, the Department and the NRD agree that, should the incentive programs and allocations proposed either not come to pass or not result in the desired effect as required for Water Short Year administration to assure compliance with the Republican River Compact and as per proposed Rule 4-7, the rules will be amended.

Following a final decision by the board on the adoption of the integrated management plan and associated rules, which we understand is on the agenda for the November 9, 2004, board meeting, the Department will make its final decision on adoption of the integrated management plan and associated rules and issue an order to that effect.

We appreciate all of the time and effort the board and the staff, particularly Dan Smith, have put into the development of this plan. While this has not been an easy task for the board, we appreciate your willingness to work with the Department in this process. We look forward to continuing to work with the board and staff on the implementation of the integrated management plan.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Roger K. Patterson in black ink.

Roger K. Patterson
Director

Enclosure

cc: Dan Smith
David Cookson

clrshare\patterson

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