

STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

June 11, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

Mike Linder, Director
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 98922
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

Richard P. Nelson, Director
Regulation and Licensure
Department of Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 95007
Lincoln, NE 68509-5007

Mark Kuzila, Director
Conservation and Survey Division
Room 113C, Nebraska Hall
Lincoln, NE 68588-0517

RE: Letter of Transmittal

Dear Sirs:

The Department of Natural Resources has conducted or coordinated studies concerning the integrated management of ground and surface water in the Republican River. We have determined, pursuant to Section 46-656.28, Neb. Rev. Stat., that the use of hydrologically connected groundwater and surface water resources in the Republican River Basin is contributing to and is in the reasonably foreseeable future likely to contribute to disputes over the Republican River Compact among Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado.

We have also determined that those disputes could be eliminated or reduced through the development and implementation of a joint action plan for the integrated management of hydrologically connected groundwater and surface water in the Republican River Basin. The area proposed for inclusion in a management area for which such a joint action plan would be prepared is all of the Nebraska land area which lies within the Republican River Basin and is also within the Upper Republican Natural Resources District, the Middle Republican Natural Resources District, the Lower Republican Natural Resources District, and the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District.

In accordance with Section 46-656.28, Neb. Rev. Statutes, we have prepared a report of these findings. A copy of the report is enclosed for your review.

Mike Linder, Richard Nelson, Mark Kuzila
June 11, 2003
Page 2

Public hearings to present the findings in the report and to receive testimony and evidence relative to those findings are scheduled as follows:

June 24, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. (Mountain), at the Chase County High School Auditorium, 520 E. 9th Street in Imperial, Nebraska

June 24, 2003 at 3:00 p.m., at the Community Meeting Room, Red Willow County Fairgrounds, West 5th and O Streets in McCook, Nebraska

June 25, 2003 at 9:00 a.m., at the Ag Center, Franklin County Fairgrounds in Franklin, Nebraska

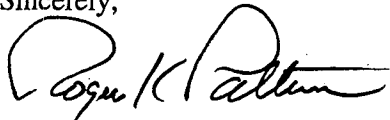
June 25, 2003 at 2:00 p.m., at the Tri-Basin NRD Office in Holdrege, Nebraska

Subsection four of Section 46-656.28, Neb. Rev. Stat. states:

(4) At the hearing, all interested persons shall be allowed to appear and present testimony. The Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska, the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, the Department of Environmental Quality, the affected surface water project sponsor or sponsors, and the appropriate surface water appropriators and district or districts may offer as evidence any information in their possession relevant to the purpose of the hearing. Within ninety days after the hearing or after any further studies or investigations conducted by or on behalf of the director as he or she deems necessary, the district shall determine by order whether to proceed with developing a joint action plan for integrated management.

You or your staff are welcome to attend one or more of the scheduled hearings and present testimony on the determinations and on whether a joint action plan should be prepared by the Department and by the natural resources districts involved. Written testimony relevant to the purposes of the hearing also may be submitted to the Department at the address noted above by 5:00 p.m., June 23, 2003.

Sincerely,



Roger K. Patterson
Director

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Enclosure

June 11, 2003

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