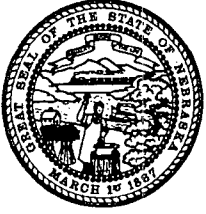


STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

February 27, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

Roy Patterson
RR 3 Box 223
Cambridge, NE 69022

Dear Mr. Patterson:

As part of the settlement of the Kansas v. Nebraska lawsuit, the States agreed to collaborate with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to develop system improvements so that we may make better use of the Republican River Basin water supply. During the settlement negotiations, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the States developed a number of proposals to improve system efficiency in the Lower Republican Basin in Nebraska and Kansas. The States and the Bureau also agreed to cost share in the feasibility studies needed to move forward with these proposals.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger K. Patterson".

Roger K. Patterson
Director

ab
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STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

February 27, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

Ed Schrock
RR 1 Box 57
Elm Creek, NE 68836

Dear Mr. Schrock:

As part of the settlement of the Kansas v. Nebraska lawsuit, the States agreed to collaborate with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to develop system improvements so that we may make better use of the Republican River Basin water supply. During the settlement negotiations, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the States developed a number of proposals to improve system efficiency in the Lower Republican Basin in Nebraska and Kansas. The States and the Bureau also agreed to cost share in the feasibility studies needed to move forward with these proposals.

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DNR 006188

STATE OF NEBRASKA



Mike Johanns
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

February 27, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Donald Suda
PO Box 289
Palisade, NE 69040

Dear Mr. Suda:

As part of the settlement of the Kansas v. Nebraska lawsuit, the States agreed to collaborate with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to develop system improvements so that we may make better use of the Republican River Basin water supply. During the settlement negotiations, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the States developed a number of proposals to improve system efficiency in the Lower Republican Basin in Nebraska and Kansas. The States and the Bureau also agreed to cost share in the feasibility studies needed to move forward with these proposals.

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STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

February 27, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

Neil Stuhmer
PO Box 775
Alma, NE 68920

Dear Mr. Stuhmer:

As part of the settlement of the Kansas v. Nebraska lawsuit, the States agreed to collaborate with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to develop system improvements so that we may make better use of the Republican River Basin water supply. During the settlement negotiations, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the States developed a number of proposals to improve system efficiency in the Lower Republican Basin in Nebraska and Kansas. The States and the Bureau also agreed to cost share in the feasibility studies needed to move forward with these proposals.

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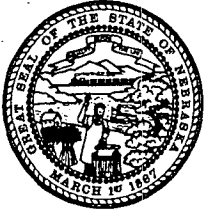
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Roger K. Patterson
Director

ab
Enclosure

STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

February 27, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

Ray Winz
11646 727 Rd
Holdrege, NE 68949

Dear Mr. Winz:

As part of the settlement of the Kansas v. Nebraska lawsuit, the States agreed to collaborate with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to develop system improvements so that we may make better use of the Republican River Basin water supply. During the settlement negotiations, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the States developed a number of proposals to improve system efficiency in the Lower Republican Basin in Nebraska and Kansas. The States and the Bureau also agreed to cost share in the feasibility studies needed to move forward with these proposals.

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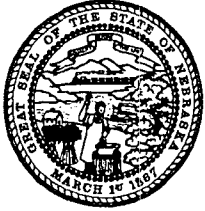
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STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

February 27, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

Terry Woollen
RR 1 Box 146
Alma, NE 68920

Dear Mr. Woollen:

As part of the settlement of the Kansas v. Nebraska lawsuit, the States agreed to collaborate with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to develop system improvements so that we may make better use of the Republican River Basin water supply. During the settlement negotiations, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the States developed a number of proposals to improve system efficiency in the Lower Republican Basin in Nebraska and Kansas. The States and the Bureau also agreed to cost share in the feasibility studies needed to move forward with these proposals.

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Roger K. Patterson
Director

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clrshare\patterson

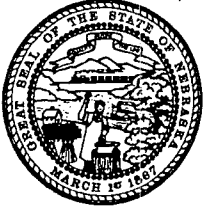
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STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

February 27, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

Robert Hipple
PO Box 1140
Imperial, NE 69033

Dear Mr. Hipple:

As part of the settlement of the Kansas v. Nebraska lawsuit, the States agreed to collaborate with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to develop system improvements so that we may make better use of the Republican River Basin water supply. During the settlement negotiations, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the States developed a number of proposals to improve system efficiency in the Lower Republican Basin in Nebraska and Kansas. The States and the Bureau also agreed to cost share in the feasibility studies needed to move forward with these proposals.

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Roger K. Patterson
Director

ab
Enclosure

STATE OF NEBRASKA



Mike Johanns
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

February 27, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Dan Smith
PO Box 81
Curtis, NE 69025

Dear Mr. Smith:

As part of the settlement of the Kansas v. Nebraska lawsuit, the States agreed to collaborate with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to develop system improvements so that we may make better use of the Republican River Basin water supply. During the settlement negotiations, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the States developed a number of proposals to improve system efficiency in the Lower Republican Basin in Nebraska and Kansas. The States and the Bureau also agreed to cost share in the feasibility studies needed to move forward with these proposals.

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Roger K. Patterson
Director

ab
Enclosure

STATE OF NEBRASKA



Mike Johanns
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

February 27, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Michael Clements
PO Box 618
Alma, NE 68920

Dear Mr. Clements:

As part of the settlement of the Kansas v. Nebraska lawsuit, the States agreed to collaborate with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to develop system improvements so that we may make better use of the Republican River Basin water supply. During the settlement negotiations, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the States developed a number of proposals to improve system efficiency in the Lower Republican Basin in Nebraska and Kansas. The States and the Bureau also agreed to cost share in the feasibility studies needed to move forward with these proposals.

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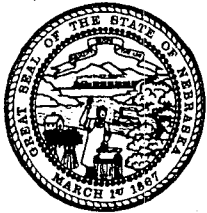
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Roger K. Patterson
Director

ab
Enclosure

STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

February 27, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

John Thorburn
1308 - 2nd St.
Holdrege, NE 68949

Dear Mr. Thorburn:

As part of the settlement of the Kansas v. Nebraska lawsuit, the States agreed to collaborate with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to develop system improvements so that we may make better use of the Republican River Basin water supply. During the settlement negotiations, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the States developed a number of proposals to improve system efficiency in the Lower Republican Basin in Nebraska and Kansas. The States and the Bureau also agreed to cost share in the feasibility studies needed to move forward with these proposals.

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Roger K. Patterson
Director

ab
Enclosure

STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

February 27, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

Roy Patterson Manager
Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District
PO Box 116
Cambridge, NE 69022-0116

Dear Mr. Patterson:

As part of the settlement of the Kansas v. Nebraska lawsuit, the States agreed to collaborate with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to develop system improvements so that we may make better use of the Republican River Basin water supply. During the settlement negotiations, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the States developed a number of proposals to improve system efficiency in the Lower Republican Basin in Nebraska and Kansas. The States and the Bureau also agreed to cost share in the feasibility studies needed to move forward with these proposals.

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Roger K. Patterson
Director

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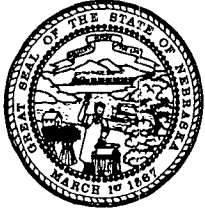
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STATE OF NEBRASKA



Mike Johanns
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

February 27, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Don Felker
PO Box 297
Culbertson, NE 69024

Dear Mr. Felker:

As part of the settlement of the Kansas v. Nebraska lawsuit, the States agreed to collaborate with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to develop system improvements so that we may make better use of the Republican River Basin water supply. During the settlement negotiations, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the States developed a number of proposals to improve system efficiency in the Lower Republican Basin in Nebraska and Kansas. The States and the Bureau also agreed to cost share in the feasibility studies needed to move forward with these proposals.

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Roger K. Patterson
Director

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DNR 006198

STATE OF NEBRASKA



Mike Johanns
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

February 27, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Kirk Nelson
Nebraska Game and Parks
Lincoln, NE

Dear Mr. Nelson:

As part of the settlement of the Kansas v. Nebraska lawsuit, the States agreed to collaborate with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to develop system improvements so that we may make better use of the Republican River Basin water supply. During the settlement negotiations, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the States developed a number of proposals to improve system efficiency in the Lower Republican Basin in Nebraska and Kansas. The States and the Bureau also agreed to cost share in the feasibility studies needed to move forward with these proposals.

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Roger K. Patterson
Director

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DNR 006199

STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

February 27, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

Michael Delka
PO Box 446
Red Cloud, NE 68970

Dear Mr. Delka:

As part of the settlement of the Kansas v. Nebraska lawsuit, the States agreed to collaborate with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to develop system improvements so that we may make better use of the Republican River Basin water supply. During the settlement negotiations, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the States developed a number of proposals to improve system efficiency in the Lower Republican Basin in Nebraska and Kansas. The States and the Bureau also agreed to cost share in the feasibility studies needed to move forward with these proposals.

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Roger K. Patterson
Director

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DNR 006200

LOWER REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN APPRAISAL STUDY

Kansas, Nebraska and the Bureau of Reclamation are conducting an Appraisal Study of the Lower Republican River Basin from Harlan County Reservoir in Nebraska to Milford Reservoir in Kansas. The purpose of the Appraisal Study is to identify one or more solutions to better utilize the water supply in the Lower Republican Basin and to determine if there is a Reclamation interest in a more detailed Feasibility Study. The Appraisal Study is a brief preliminary investigation using existing data and information to identify plans for meeting current and projected needs and problems of the area. The Study needs to identify only one potential solution or an array of options that have been screened and evaluated to substantiate potential Federal involvement. Not all possible solutions need to be evaluated in an Appraisal Study. If one potential solution can be identified that meets the criteria for proceeding to the more detailed Feasibility Study, the study can be concluded and the recommendation made that there is sufficient Federal interest to proceed to a Feasibility Study.

This Appraisal Study is a follow-up to efforts that took place in proceedings of the recent lawsuit among Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado over the use of Republican River Basin water. This lawsuit is being resolved in an out of court settlement agreed upon by the involved states with the approval of the U.S. Justice Department and the Special Master.

The Lawsuit Negotiating Team received input from Reclamation regarding various possible proposals that could be considered and which could help alleviate some of the water shortage concerns. From the 13 proposals that were developed the States recommended priorities be given to four individual proposals or proposal combinations when conducting further study and analysis. This Appraisal Study will initially analyze these proposals to see if there is sufficient Federal interest to recommend a Feasibility Study. These initial proposals are:

- Proposal B. Courtland Canal Automation, Reshape Canal Prism, Winter Operation
- Proposal C1. Increase Lovewell Reservoir Capacity – 16,000 Acre-Feet.
- Proposal C2. Increase Lovewell Reservoir Capacity – 35,000 Acre-Feet.
- Proposal G. Off-Stream Storage, Kansas Tributaries, Beaver Creek.

Hydrologists are currently working on updating and extending previous water operation studies that were utilized when the Republican River Basin contracts with the Irrigation Districts were renewed. The Consensus Plan for Operating Harlan County Lake that was agreed upon by Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers will be incorporated into this Study. This agreement provides for sharing the decreasing water supply into Harlan County Lake. It also provides a consistent procedure for updating the reservoir elevation/storage relationship, sharing the reduced inflow and summer evaporation, and providing a January forecast of irrigation water available for the following summer.

It is planned to have the Appraisal Study completed by the end of this calendar year. If there is a need for further federal involvement, a Feasibility Study will be required to be authorized and funded. The earliest a Feasibility Study could commence would be October 1, 2004. For feasibility studies, there is a requirement that 50% of the study costs be paid by the non-Federal partners.