

Notice of Public Hearings

Notice is hereby given that the Nebraska Director of Natural Resources has 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. The Director has 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.

Public hearings to present the findings in the Director's 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

Copies of the Director's report are available on the Department of Natural Resources' website at: <http://www.dnr.state.ne.us>. Copies may also be obtained from the Department at 301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 94676, Lincoln, NE 68509, (402) 471-2363, Cambridge Field Office, 622 Paterson Street, Cambridge, NE 69022, (308) 697-3730, and from each of the four natural resources districts that were involved in the study that produced the referenced report. Those natural resources districts can be contacted at:

Upper Republican NRD
135 West 5th Street
P.O. Box 1140
Imperial, NE 69033
(308) 882-5173

Middle Republican NRD
220 Center Street
P.O. Box 81
Curtis, NE 69025
(308) 367-4281
(800) 873-5613 Toll-Free

Tri-Basin NRD
Phelps County Ag Center
1308 – 2nd Street
Holdrege, NE 68949
(308) 995-6688
(877) 995-6688 Toll-Free

Lower Republican NRD
706 – 2nd Street
P.O. Box 618
Alma, NE 68920
(308) 928-2182

All interested persons are welcome to attend one or more of the scheduled hearings and present testimony on the Director's 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.

Individuals with disabilities may request auxiliary aids and service necessary for participation by contacting the Department's administrative officer at the same location by June 20, 2003.