



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Nebraska Water Science Center
5231 South 19 Street
Lincoln, NE 68512-1271

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DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

September 15, 2008

Brian Dunnigan
Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 94676
Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

Dear ~~Mr. Dunnigan:~~ ^{Brian}

This is in reference to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) request to take over the old Republican River near Guide Rock (06853000) streamgaging station about 0.2 mi downstream of the Courtland diversion dam. As I am sure you are aware, the gage has been inactive for a number of years. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) was planning to dismantle the facilities at the site because of safety concerns—the stilling well is considered a confined space, and the cableway and car no longer meet USGS standards and are considered unusable in their current condition. There is also a concern about the lack of good access to the site. However, the NDNR is welcome to take the gage over as long as it is understood that they assume responsibility for the gage facilities in an “as is” condition.

Enclosed are two copies of Agreement for Gage Transfer No. 8-8626-06853000. The agreement includes a list of deficiencies in the facilities and a list of USGS safety policies regarding the gage. A requirement of the agreement is that a qualified non-USGS engineer examines the gage and prepares a report that evaluates whether it is suitable for use, with a copy provided to the USGS. Please sign both copies of the agreement and return one copy, along with a copy of the engineer’s inspection report, to this office.

As a required safety measure some time ago, we replaced the standard-keyed USGS padlocks with non-standard ones. The non-standard keys will be needed to gain full access.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Swanson, Director
USGS Nebraska Water Science Center

2 Enclosures