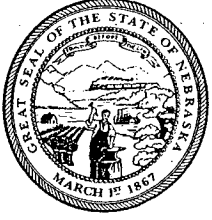


STATE OF NEBRASKA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Roger K. Patterson
Director

July 23, 2004

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mike Johanns
Governor

TO: Irrigation Districts,
Reclamation Districts,
Public Power and Irrigation Districts,
Mutual Irrigation Companies,
Canal Companies,
Municipalities, and
Surface Water Appropriators in the Republican River Basin

FROM: Roger K. Patterson, Director

SUBJECT: Republican River Basin Integrated Management Planning Process: Consultation

As you may be aware, the Department of Natural Resources ("Department") is involved in integrated management planning for the Republican River Basin. The Natural Resource Districts ("NRDs") within the Republican River Basin are working with the Department to develop Integrated Management Plans that are in compliance with the requirements of LB 962 and that ensure that Nebraska will stay in compliance with the Republican River Compact.

As part of the planning process, the Department and the NRDs are required to consult with any irrigation district, reclamation district, public power and irrigation district, mutual irrigation company, canal company, or municipality that relies on water from the Republican River Basin. We have also determined that it is appropriate to provide the same consultation opportunity to appropriators not receiving their water from an irrigation district or canal company. If you would like to have input into the development of these plans please provide your comments to the appropriate NRD or the Department.

There have been several recent meetings throughout the Basin to provide information and get input on various management scenarios. Hopefully you've been able to attend one or more of these meetings. Additional meetings and hearings will be held later this summer. I encourage your participation. Please feel free to contact me or Ann Bleed at (402) 471-2366 or Brad Edgerton at our Cambridge office (308) 697-3730 with any comments.

cc: Lower Republican Natural Resources District
Upper Republican Natural Resources District
Middle Republican Natural Resources District