



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) – The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District will hold a series of public hearings next week about the J-2 Regulating Reservoirs project that would be constructed south of the Platte River between Lexington and Overton.

The schedule for the three hearings is:

- Wed., Nov. 5 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Phelps County Ag Center in Holdrege;
- Thurs., Nov. 6 from 1:00 to 3 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Express in Lexington; and
- Thurs., Nov. 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Civic Center in Elwood.

There will be several stations at each site staffed by personnel from Central, RJH Engineering and other consultants involved with the project. Information about various aspects of the project will be available at each station in an “open house” format. A separate room will be available for people wishing to provide written or oral (recorded) comments about the project. The public is invited to attend the hearings anytime within the two-hour period.

The hearings are required by state statute before Central can begin negotiations with landowners for purchase the land required for construction of the two reservoirs.

The J-2 Regulating Reservoirs are part of a larger plan to improve hydropower generation, enhance flows in the Platte River for the benefit of threatened and endangered species and to provide integrated water management benefits for Nebraska. Central has agreements with the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, the State of Nebraska, and several Platte River natural resources districts to provide benefits from the operation of the reservoirs.

Water from Central’s hydro-irrigation system will be regulated in the reservoirs and returned to the river at times determined to be most beneficial to the target species. The reservoirs will also enable Central to operate its Johnson No. 2 hydroplant more efficiently and benefit Johnson Lake water levels during the spring and summer recreation season.

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