



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
Nebraska Field Office
203 West Second Street
Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

March 26, 2001

Mr. Jay Maher
Central Nebraska Public Power
and Irrigation District
415 Lincoln Street
P.O. Box 740
Holdrege, NE 68949-0740

Re: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) Project No. 1417, License Article No. 421, Revised Draft Management Plan for Least Tern and Piping Plover Nesting on the Shore of Lake McConaughy

Dear Mr. Maher:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the referenced item that was included as an attachment to a March 20, 2001, E-mail message. As a result of that review, the Service concurs with the revisions that have been made to the draft Management Plan. The implementation of the measures described in the revised draft Management Plan along the shoreline areas of Lake McConaughy in Keith County, Nebraska should contribute toward the recovery of the federally endangered least tern and threatened piping plover.

The Service appreciates Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's (Central) cooperation and willingness to pursue improvements to the draft Management Plan which the Commission is currently considering for approval. We also look forward to working with Central and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission on the future implementation of this plan. Questions regarding this matter may be referred to Ms. Erika Wilson within our office by calling (308)382-6468, extension 25, or at the following E-mail address: erika_wilson@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Steve Anschutz
Nebraska Field Supervisor

cc: DOI; Regional Solicitor's Office (Attn: Margot Zallen)
USFWS; R-6, AES, MS 60120 (Attn: Bob McCue)
NGPC; Lincoln, NE (Attn: Kirk Nelson)



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

2200 N. 33rd St. / P.O. Box 30370 / Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

Phone: 402-471-0641 / Fax: 402-471-5528 / <http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/>

16 April 2001

Mr. Jeremiah (Jay) L. Maher
Environmental Resources Manager
The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District
415 Lincoln Street, PO Box 740
Holdredge, Nebraska 68949

Dear Mr. Maher:

Please make reference to recent modifications made to the least tern and piping plover section of the Land and Shoreline Management Plan for Lake McConaughy.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission concurs with modifications made to the Plan. We determined that these modifications will adequately protect habitats for the least tern and piping plover at Lake McConaughy.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 402-471-5539.

Sincerely,

Kirk L. Nelson
Assistant Director

Cc:

Mr. Steve Anschutz, USFWS
Mr. Jim Carney, NGPC
Mr. John Dinan, NGPC
Mr. Mike Fritz, NGPC
Mr. Frank Albrecht, NGPC
Mr. Robert Harms, NGPC