



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality has determined that floodwaters from the South Platte River that entered Nebraska no longer pose a health risk to the public. NDEQ announced Friday that samples of the water, some of which was diverted into The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's Supply Canal and resevoirs, show that the level of of bacteria have fallen below levels that could cause illnesses if ingested.

A portion of the water from the flooding was diverted into Central's Supply Canal east of the City of North Platte to help mitigate potential flood damage downstream and to recharge groundwater supplies in and adjacent to Central's service area. Lakes along the Supply Canal system include Jeffrey Lake, Midway Lake, Johnson Lake, Elwood Reservoir and portions of the Phelps and E65 irrigation canals.

NDEQ expanded and extended its sampling plan for bacteria in response to the flooding. Results of the most recent samples are available at www.deq.state.ne.us/ under the "Press Releases" link.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 14, 2013

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