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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors was briefed Sunday during Monday's monthly meeting on a boundary review process being conducted to comply with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requirements.

Gothenburg Division Manager Devin Brundage reported that Central needs to begin work in the near future on the FERC requirements to update project boundaries around each of Central's many reservoirs, lakes and canals for project-related operations and maintenance.

Brundage said language in FERC's license requires licensees to "acquire title in fee or the right to use in perpetuity all lands, other than lands of the United States, necessary or appropriate for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the project." Central is currently conducting a boundary review of its properties to determine areas where it will need to acquire property to comply with the FERC requirements. Some of the need has arisen because of erosion along Central's many lakes and canals. In other areas it may be determined that insufficient land was acquired during the original project construction that occurred in the 1930s.

Most of the properties being reviewed are adjacent to Central's Supply Canal and, including the reservoirs and small canals along the canal, although there may be additional acres at Lake McConaughy, the project's primary storage reservoir, that may need to be acquired.

As an example, Brundage said, last year's partial sale of 1250 acres of farm ground adjacent to Gallagarh Canyon Reservoir (south of Casco) at public auction was done to comply with FERC boundary requirements.

Central representatives had approached the landowner about purchasing only a small number of acres necessary for boundary control, but were informed by the landowner that the property would be sold only as a single parcel. Central is currently leasing the majority of the recently acquired acres for farm and pasture use.

In the future, after boundary issues are addressed, such land not necessary for project purposes will be offered to the public, likely through a public auction process.

Brundage presented several other examples of properties that are being analyzed and said the boundary review process addresses each respective parcel. Central is currently leasing the majority of the recently acquired acres for farm and pasture use.

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