



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- Staff members at The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District are making final preparations for public hearings about the planned J-2 Regulating Reservoirs this week, according to reports during Central's monthly meeting of its board of directors on Monday.

Hearings are scheduled for Wed., Nov. 5 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Phelps County Ag Center in Holdrege; and on Thurs., Nov. 6 from 1:00 to 3 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Express in Lexington, and from 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 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.

Also at Monday's meeting:

- The board approved the purchase of four portable water pumps at a cost per unit of \$2,439. The portable pumps will be donated to volunteer fire departments in the Johnson Lake area. The pumps can be placed directly in water bodies for fire-fighting purposes in areas where access to water is limited to whatever volume fire trucks can carry.
- The board approved a change order to reduce the cost of the addition and renovation project at the Gothenburg Office and shop by \$5,000 and then approved a contract closure with Wayne Dowhower Construction, Inc., of North Platte to complete the \$2 million project that began in 2012.
- The directors approved a three-year, \$196,500 lease/purchase agreement with Caterpillar Financial Services Corp., for a hydraulic excavator.
- Lake McConaughy's elevation on Monday was 3244.2 feet, which is 1.1 feet higher than the peak elevation before the beginning of irrigation deliveries last spring. Recent inflows have been in the 1,000 to 1,200 cubic feet per second range, which is 70 to 80 percent of normal for this time of year.

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