

The Communicator

Published by The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District

Lincoln Electric System to Receive Hydropower from Central

The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (Central) and Lincoln Electric System (LES) have finalized a power purchase agreement for 20 megawatts of capacity and energy from Central's Jeffrey Reservoir Hydroplant, located south of Brady, Neb.

The power agreement went into effect on April 1, 2025, and runs through the end of 2037. This coincides with the remainder of Central's current Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing.

LES will use the power generated by Jeffrey Hydro to support its service area, which includes the cities of Lincoln and Waverly, Neb.

"We're proud to partner with LES and help deliver on their goal of providing environmentally responsible, low-cost reliable electricity for their customers," Central General Manager Devin Brundage said. "We look forward to helping LES serve its customers with Nebraska hydropower."

"LES has a variety of generation resources in our portfolio that provide flexibility, adaptability and stability in an ever-changing energy landscape," said LES manager of Resource and Transmission Planning Scott Benson. "This partnership with Central boosts our portfolio and contributes to the reliable and affordable power our customers expect. It also brings LES another step closer to achieving our decarbonization goal. We're proud to partner with Central on this effort."



Jeffrey Hydroplant, located south of Brady, has capacity of 20 megawatts of energy that will now be sold to Lincoln Electric System

With the new contract, Central plans to adjust how they operate the Jeffrey Hydroplant to maximize efficiency in order to meet energy and market demands.

Lake level elevations at Jeffrey Reservoir are expected to be more variable to make the best use of water resources. Cabin owners or recreational users of Jeffrey Reservoir will likely see water levels fluctuate more than in the past.

About LES

LES is a public power utility that provides electricity to homes, businesses and government properties in Lincoln, Nebraska and its surrounding areas. LES is Nebraska's second-largest retail electric utility based on the number of customers served. With this power purchase agreement, LES' nameplate resource portfolio—the full capacity of its generation fleet—is comprised of 35% renewable resources, 35% natural gas and 30% coal. Learn more about LES at [LES.com](https://www.les.com).



Lincoln Electric System

Board Approves Memorandum Regarding Perkins County Canal Project

At Central's February Board of Directors meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding was approved with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding the Perkins County Canal.

Within the memorandum, Central confirms that it experiences limited irrigation supplies because the demand exceeds the supply available from the Platte River basin. It also confirms that Central's facilities and infrastructure could be used to distribute the South Platte River water deriving from the construction of the Perkins Canal. Both DNR and Central agree to work together to ensure irrigation needs of the Platte River basing are better met using the Perkins Canal Project.

In 1923, Nebraska and Colorado signed the South Platte River Compact to resolve a dispute to legally divide the river's water. This compact is recognized as both state and federal law.

Two key components of Article IV of the Compact include:

1. Limits irrigation season uses in Colorado to benefit Nebraska water users. Colorado must limit its water use whenever the river's flow at Julesburg drops to 120 cubic feet per second (cfs).
2. Contemplates a diversion (envisioned as the Perkins County Canal a.k.a. South Divide Canal) and authorizes Nebraska to divert 500 cfs during the non-irrigation season and any available flows into the canal.

Since the Perkins County Canal remains unfinished, Colorado continues to increase its diversions and water use during the non-irrigation season without restriction.

<u>Irrigation Season</u> (April 1 to Oct. 15)	<u>Non-Irrigation Season</u> (Oct. 15 to April 1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 120 cfs flow• Currently in effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 500 cfs flow• Colorado is not yet enforcing without completion of the Perkins County Canal

Once the project is completed, Colorado will be required to limit its water use during the non-irrigation season to comply with the South Platte River Compact and preserve flows for Nebraska. The 500 cfs of water that would flow into Nebraska and be stored in reservoirs as part of this project would be enough to fill Lake McConaughy in 5-6 years.

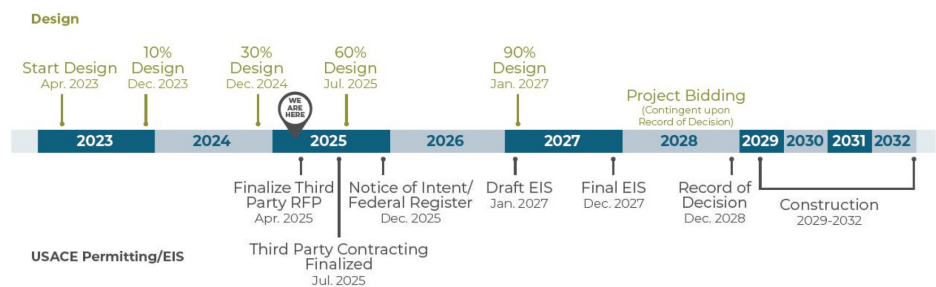
The Perkins County Canal and associated water storage reservoirs are expected to cost approximately \$628 million and fortunately Nebraska's legislature made the bold decision to authorize and fund the project. The estimated benefits range from \$1.4 to \$2 billion statewide and will help secure Nebraska's water future.



Board President Kyle Shepherd (left), Vice President Brent Soneson (right) and Treasurer Dudley Nelson (standing) sign the memorandum regarding the Perkins County Canal.

Nebraska remains on schedule with the Perkins County Canal project. Design work continues with 60% design expected to be finished this summer.

Perkins County Canal



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On the Lakefront



Changes Adopted to Permitting Procedures

The land administration team at Central has been collecting suggestions and feedback from cabin lessees on a better way to streamline the permitting procedure process. At the May Board of Directors meeting, the board approved amendments to the current District Permitting Procedures.

These new amendments remove the lot line construction setbacks and roadway construction setbacks as each county has these in their respecting zoning requirements. This reduces redundancy and simplifies the permitting process for our customers. Moving forward, lessees and the land administration team will continue to work closely with each other throughout all phases of construction projects, but these changes will reduce wait times between the request of a permit application and issuance of a permit from staff.

Buoys Installed near Kingsley Dam



Several buoys were recently installed near Kingsley Dam at Lake McConaughy. The buoys are being used to measure significant wave height as well as wind speed and direction. This information is being collected by consultants to evaluate the best option for the Kingsley Dam refacing project. Each buoy is equipped with a flashing light on top. Please report any vandalism to these high-cost devices. There is no restricted access near the dam where the buoys are placed.

Johnson Lake Cabin-owners Tour Dates

Thursday, June 12

Thursday, July 17

Tuesday, August 12

Tours of Central's hydro-irrigation project leave from the Johnson Lake EMS Building around 7 a.m., and return around 5 p.m. Lunch at Ole's Big Game Steakhouse and transportation is provided.

Tours for cabin owners at Jeffrey Reservoir or Lake McConaughy can also be organized if groups are interested.

For reservations contact

Alex Linden:

alinden@cnppid.com or

(308) 995-3560

Employee Name	Project subject matter	Contact Info
Luke Ritz (Senior Land Administrator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land and shoreline management plan Permit rules and regulators Concession leases Agricultural/Residential lease questions 	Office: (308) 537-3582x4186 Cell: (308) 529-0009 lritz@cnppid.com
DeAnna Ernstmeyer (Land Administrator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dwelling & associated construction permit Dredge, excavate, fill permits Residential lease questions & transfers Pre-Construction/on-site meetings Vegetation removal/planting 	Office: (308) 995-3563 Cell: (308) 991-5565 dernstmeyer@cnppid.com
Dustin Ehlers (Land Administrator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoreline & Water Access Facility Permit (SWAF) Dredge, excavate, fill permits Erosion control/shoreline protection permit Pre-Construction/on-site meetings Vegetation removal/planting Johnson Lake vacation rentals 	Office: (308) 537-3582x4184 Cell: (308) 991-9778 dehlers@cnppid.com

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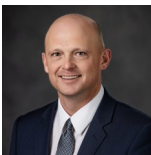
Four New Directors Sworn in as Central Board Members

Four new directors were sworn in as new members of the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors at the January board meeting.



Bryant Knoerzer of Elwood represents Gosper County in one of the three seats. Knoerzer has been a farmer/rancher for over 35 years on the family operation north of Elwood where he is a Central District Water User. He is active in the community serving on his local church board, is on the board for KAAPA Ethanol, the South Central Corn Growers and was just re-elected to the Board of Education of Elwood Public Schools.

Knoerzer fills the position that was held by his father Willie Knoerzer of Elwood, who retired from the board after serving since 1989.



Matt Wells of Axtell represents one of the three Kearney County seats on the board. Wells is a sixth-generation farmer in Kearney County and is a Central District Water User. He is a volunteer coach with youth sports activities and also serves on his church board.

Wells replaces Scott Olson who had served on the board since 1996.



Gary Robison of Bertrand represents Phelps County as one of the three representatives. Robison is a farmer and rancher with Robison Farms near Bertrand and is a Central District Water User. He has held several different local board positions in the past and been involved with youth sports and 4-H with his family and community.

Robison fills the position that was held by Robert Dahlgren of Bertrand who retired after serving on the board since 2007.



Tom Jasnoch of Ogallala represents Keith County on the board. Jasnoch is a sales manager with WinField United where he is an agronomist and represents their agricultural product line working with cooperatives in Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas. He is also a certified crop advisor. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus at his church and a is a past member of the parish and school boards as well as a volunteer with Ogallala Public Schools. Jasnoch is a alumni of the Nebraska LEAD program representing class 31.

Jasnoch fills the position that was held by Martin Mueller of Ogallala, who retired after serving on the board since 2007.