



## News Release

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(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- The contractor for the proposed J-2 Regulating Reservoirs Project provided an updated cost estimate during a meeting of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program's Governance Committee today in Kearney.

The revised cost estimate for project construction is now approximately \$170 million, not including the cost of land acquisition. The cost update was provided as part of a presentation by RJH Consultants Inc., the primary contractor for the project to be built, owned and operated by The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District.

The cost update is the result of a multi-month review of the project by RJH at Central's request. The cost estimate to construct the project increased substantially from an initial estimate of approximately \$63 million and is the result of multiple factors, including increased construction bid rates, more detailed information gained from field investigations, and design modifications.

Although the design has been advanced over the past year and a half, it is still considered to be at a conceptual level of design. Additional cost changes, either up or down, are possible as the project progresses.

Following the presentation, the Platte River Program requested that Central work with RJH to study alternatives for reducing the cost of the project, including modifications of project components and possible reductions to the overall size of the project. The Program asked that the revised information be completed in time for discussion at the Governance Committee's next meeting in Denver in December.

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