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J-2 Regulating Reservoirs Project FAQs

Q: How will you ensure that the reservoirs will hold water and not cause seepage problems or high groundwater problems?

A: The reservoirs' design includes a compacted clay lining to minimize seepage from the bottom, while the embankment will also include seepage control features to prevent adverse impacts to adjacent land.

Q: What will happen to roads in the area?

A: Some roads will be displaced by the Project, but new roads will be constructed to maintain traffic flow in and through the area. All road relocation and construction will be paid for by the Project and the new roads will become property of the counties upon completion.

Q: Will taxes still be paid on land that is purchased?

A: Central is a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska and pays in lieu of taxes, which are much less than current property taxes. However, on September 10, 2014 the Platte River Program's Governance Committee approved using "the Program's Good Neighbor Policy to ensure affected counties are made whole due to lost tax revenues from removing lands on those county tax rolls for the J-2 Regulating Reservoirs Project."

Q: When will construction begin on the reservoirs?

A: Construction is expected to begin in 2017 and possibly take two years to complete.

Q: Who will own the reservoirs?

A: Central will own and operate the reservoirs.

Q: Are the Project's developers aware of historical features in the area (e.g., the Oregon Trail, the Plum Creek Massacre site, the Plum Creek Pioneer Cemetery, etc.?)

A: Central is aware of and attentive to the existence of these and many other historical and cultural resources in the Project area. The massacre site is not within the Project's "footprint," and the Plum Creek Pioneer Cemetery will not be inundated by the reservoirs. Central has retained the services of Dr. Steve Holen, an archeologist with local ties to and extensive knowledge of the area, to assist with all cultural resource considerations.

Q: Will there be opportunities for recreational activities associated with the reservoirs?

A: Unfortunately, the nature of the reservoirs and their operation does not lend itself to recreational activities. Access to the reservoirs will be controlled by fencing and aesthetics issues will be addressed by Project engineers.