DEB FISCHER
NEBRASKA

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
INDIAN AFFAIRS
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510
November 4, 2014

Mr. Dudley L. Nelson
President, Board of Directors
Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District
P.O. Box 740
415 Lincoln Street
Holdrege, NE 68949

Dear Mr. Nelson:

I am writing to alert you to a serious matter involving the proposed J-2 Regulating Reservoir under consideration by the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District (Central). Several Nebraska landowners, who will be adversely impacted by this project, have contacted my office to express serious concerns. Please give this matter your prompt attention.

It is my understanding that these citizens and landowners have attended Central Board Meetings to communicate their specific concerns. They have identified the lack of response from your organization's leadership and Board as creating uncertainty among property owners regarding the future of their land, property and resources.

My office has reviewed the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, CNPPID Regulating Reservoir, Elwood and J-2 Alternatives Analysis Project Report compiled by Olsson & Associates. Due to the questions and concerns shared with me – along with issues raised by this report, I respectfully request the following information from CNPPID "Central" regarding the J-2 Regulating Reservoir Project:

1- Were federal funds transferred from the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) to Central for this project? If so, when and what amount? By what federal authority and by what federal budgetary means were these funds authorized and appropriated?

2- Please describe in detail the relationship of the Nebraska Community Foundation to the J-2 Regulating Reservoir Project. Are any federal or state funds being used by the Nebraska Community Foundation for implementation of the J-2 Project?

3- Which federal agencies are directly involved with the implementation of the J-2 Project? Please describe the federal agencies, their leadership (including contact information) and the nature of their involvement with the J-2 Project.

4- What specific state funds are being utilized to implement the J-2 Project? Please share those funding sources and the source of their appropriated funds.

440 North 8th Street, Suite 120
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 441-4600
(402) 476-8753 FAX

http://fischer.senate.gov

11819 Miracle Hills Drive, Suite 205
Omaha, NE 68154
(402) 391-3411
(402) 391-4795 FAX

received
11-6-14

I have reviewed your website, and I understand that Central is hosting three public hearings in November to address the J-2 at different times and locations. According to the Central website, each public hearing will present identical information with an open house format with information stations. The Central announcement of these public hearings specifies the opportunity to submit written or audio (recorded) comments about the J-2 Project to Central (with the understanding that audio comments will be limited to 5 minutes maximum).

It appears from the description of these hearings that direct interaction with Central leadership or Board Members will be limited in nature. Concerned landowners have expressed their strong reservations regarding this official public format. Will you please apprise me of how and when verbal and written concerns, comments, descriptions and questions regarding the J-2 Regulating Reservoir will be addressed and shared with the public?

I have one final request. Official Central Board Minutes in recent months make numerous references to J-2 Regulating Reservoir discussions; however, these discussions are consistently held in Executive Session and these discussions are out of the public view. I request a copy (or summation, if formal notes are not available) of these Executive Session minutes, in their entirety, for the 2012-2014 Central Board Meetings.

Thank you for your time and assistance in addressing this serious matter. I would appreciate a formal reply to my questions and requests by November 19, 2014.

Sincerely,

Deb Fischer
United States Senator

DF: nm