CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

To: Jerry Kenny, PH.D., Executive Director - PRRIP
Jim Schneider, Acting Director - Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Diane Wilson, COO/CFO - Nebraska Community Foundation
From: Don Kraus, PE, General Manager - CNPPID
Subject: Quarterly J-2 Regulating Reservoir Report – June 2015
Date: May 29, 2015

Progress Report

The RJH J-2 Project quarterly progress report is attached.

Financial Report

- Funds received to date $20,475,000.00

- J-2 Operating Fund $13,346,859.98
  Construction Phase Decommissioning Fund $2,252,443.50
  Construction Phase Reserve Fund $2,653,158.21
  Construction Phase Project Fee $433,494.92
  Total $18,685,956.61

- J2 Project expenses 1st quarter 2015 $237,374.10

- J2 Project expenses 2013 $77,400.79
- J2 Project expenses 2014 $1,570,395.85

- Total J-2 Project expenses paid through Mar 2015: $1,885,170.74

J-2 Regulating Reservoirs Project
Report Period: March, April, May 2015

The purpose of this Quarterly Report is to provide a general summary of the work performed for the J-2 Regulating Reservoirs Project (Project) during March, April, and May of 2015. This does not include details of all the subtasks performed. The summary of work is organized into the following general categories of work:

- General Project Management and Implementation Tasks
- Permitting Activities
- Land Purchase Activities
- Water Rights Petition Filing
- Engineering Tasks

General Project Management and Project Implementation Tasks

- The team continued to coordinate through recurring teleconferences.
- RJH renewed the yearly subscription to maintain a file-share site for use by the Project Team to share and store Project information.
- Central maintained a Project website to provide information to the public.
- The Team continued to hold topic-specific coordination meetings to support various aspects of land purchasing, permitting, and engineering.
- RJH finalized a contract with Central for project management, engineering, and design services through 50 percent design of the Project.
- Kleinschmidt finalized a contract with Central for FERC permitting services through filing of the license amendment, including development of a biological opinion and programmatic agreement for historic properties.
- RJH continued to update overall Project schedule based on changes to land acquisition and permitting progress.
- Central established contracts for cultural resource survey work.
- Central established a contract with a Nebraska wetland specialist to perform wetland delineation and stream assessments.
- Responded to Senator Deb Fischer's requests for project information and met with Senator Fischer's staff.
- Presented Project information to two Central Nebraska farmer and agronomist groups.

Permitting Activities

- Based on comments received on the ICD and in preliminary agency meetings, continued to revise and refine study plans for wetlands, water quality, and RTE species. Agreed to develop the Cultural Resource Study Plan separate from above study plans.
- Participated in preliminary agency meetings with NDNR (Dam Safety group and Water Measurement group) and USACE wetlands permitting.
- Began compiling the previously-studied project alternatives in response to meeting with USACE. USACE noted that they would require documentation to support that the preferred alternative (the J-2 Project) is the least damaging practicable alternative (LDPA).
- Continued Phase I cultural resource field survey (walking surveys).
- Began Phase II cultural resource field survey (excavations) concurrent with geotechnical explorations.
- Continued development of reports for on-site buildings to enable SHPO evaluation of eligibility for the national register of historic buildings.
- Met with National Parks Service trail representative to discuss Project's potential impacts to Oregon Trail ruts.
- Participated in a preliminary agency meeting with FERC in Washington D.C.
- Issued draft study plans for Wetlands and Water Quality to agencies for review. Decided that Central has performed sufficient studies to adequately characterize the presence of RTE species at the Project site.
- Scheduled meeting to discuss agency's preliminary review comments on study plans.

Land Purchase Activities

- Continue to negotiate in good faith for the purchase of J-2 Project lands.
- Continued to obtain legal opinions on approach and actions related to purchasing land for the Project.
- Received and reviewed a proposed access agreement from 5 landowners.
- Entered into an agreement with the 5 landowners noted above for temporary access to Project lands.
- Requested and obtained a second agreement for temporary access to Project lands owned by the 5 landowners noted above.

Water Rights Petition Filing

- No work was performed on this task.

Engineering Tasks

- Continued to monitor the groundwater levels at 22 monitoring well locations along the Phelps Canal and around the proposed reservoir areas.
- Performed a geologic desktop study and site reconnaissance, and mapped the site geology.
- Planned and began a geotechnical exploration consisting of two drill rigs and a backhoe working on site for approximately 4 weeks.
- Began geotechnical laboratory testing and data compilation.
- Continued to advance development of the concept to realign the road around the proposed reservoirs, specifically considering intersections and alignment relative to the embankment and a relocated Plum Creek.
- Completed developing concepts for new bridges needed over the Extended Supply Canal and the new alignment of Plum Creek.
- Continued hydrologic evaluations of Plum Creek (2-dimensional model), the Platte River, and the unnamed tributary. These evaluations are needed to identify the likely flows during infrequent and significant storm events such as the 100-year-storm and the Probable Maximum Precipitation.
- Continued hydraulic evaluation to support design and a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) for the Platte River Floodplain.
- Continued to refine hydraulic modeling of the canal to evaluate project operations and concepts.
- Began researching case histories of clay-lined reservoirs to evaluate potentially-needed concept adjustments.
- Began researching regulatory requirements for canal freeboard.
- Began topographic survey of Site using LiDAR techniques.
- Continued to update concepts for the canal, dams, and reservoirs.
- Began updating items, quantities, and developing and opinion of probable project costs for the updated concepts.

Tasks Anticipated for the Next Quarter

- Host a study plan comment meeting with regulatory agencies.
- Address agency comments and finalize plans for wetlands and water quality studies.
- Begin performing wetland delineation and stream assessments.
- Begin collecting water quality data in accordance with accepted study plans.
- Compile previously-studied Project alternatives and begin evaluation of the J-2 Project's environmental impact relative to other alternatives.

- Continue performing Phase I (walking assessments) of the cultural resource survey.
- Develop reports documenting the results of Phase I (walking surveys) and initial Phase II (excavations) cultural resource studies.
- Develop a Phase II study plan for cultural resources and submit to SHPO for review and comment.
- Begin preparations for Phase II field work for cultural resources studies.
- Begin developing FERC draft license amendment based on updated Project concept.
- Continue to pursue purchase of lands needed for Project.
- Complete the conceptual-level hydrologic and hydraulic evaluations of floodplains.
- Continue the hydraulic evaluation of canal and regulating reservoir system to support design including modifications to the canal freeboard and structures (i.e., siphon and flume).
- Continue development and needed adjustments for the road and bridge concepts.
- Continue to update the dam and reservoir concepts based on a review of case histories of similar projects.
- Complete an update the project concepts and costs based on changes to the Project since the spring of 2013.

Potential Issues:

- As a result of potential permitting constraints and requirements, project concepts may need to be adjusted to reduce disturbance to portions of the J-2 Project Area.
- Based on the initial cultural resource studies performed this quarter, the extent of cultural resources that will need to be explored is much greater than suggested by previous studies. All walking surveys performed prior to 2015 will need to be redone and a significant archeological excavation may be needed. Some environmental studies may be delayed past initial estimates because of lack of access to Private land.
- The USACE is requiring documentation that the J-2 Project is the LDPA of the project concepts considered.
- Project components have been added to the Project and modified since RJH's feasibility review performed in late 2012. Additionally, the construction bidding climate has changed significantly from late 2012 and early 2013 when the engineer (RJH) developed their estimate of Project Costs. In RJH's opinion, the anticipated project costs are likely to increase. RJH plans to deliver an updated Opinion of Probable Project Costs in mid-2015.