



PRRIP – ED OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
FROM: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
SUBJECT: WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON THE NEBRASKA NEW DEPLETIONS PLAN UPDATE
DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2011

At the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) meeting on February 1, 2011, Jim Schneider of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) presented information from a letter report dated December 30, 2010 regarding the “Nebraska New Depletion Plan Annual Permit Activity Report and Update on Bullets 2, 4, and 5, under Section IV of the Nebraska New Depletion” (NNDP Update). The purpose of the letter report was to provide a report on the permitting activities from 2006 through 2009 and inform the WAC on the progress the NDNR is making on other tasks outlined in the Nebraska New Depletion Plan.

The report included two Attachments, A and B. Attachment A is the annual water permitting report relating to Section IV bullet 3 in the Nebraska New Depletion Plan. Tables 1 and 2 in Attachment A include well and surface water permits issued from 2006 through 2009 and the required offsets as determined by the individual Natural Resource Districts. There was a discussion among WAC members whether the NNDP Update included sufficient information regarding the timing and location of the collective depletions as described in bullet 3. Attachment B is a description of the progress NDNR has made on other tasks and their next steps in achieving these tasks.

The WAC agreed that the permit tabulation met the permitting report requirement as described in Section IV bullet 3 in the Nebraska New Depletions Plan. The WAC also agreed that the remainder of the document serves as a progress update on the Nebraska New Depletion Plan, providing a good summary on water-related activities and information on where Nebraska is going on these activities. Some WAC members believe there may still be issues in the determination of offsets, or perhaps that more information needs to be provided to the WAC so that they can better understand the methodologies being used.

The WAC also indicated interest in initiating discussions regarding NDNR's level of interest (or at what stage NDNR will be able to identify) in the Water Action Plan (WAP) projects that NDNR expressed interest in the previous WAP reports and December 30, 2010 letter report.