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DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

January 24, 2014

Mr. Brian Dunnigan  
301 Centennial Mall South 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
PO Box 94676  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

Dear Mr. Dunnigan:

In response to your letter of December 31, 2013, and in the spirit of working together the Lower Republican, Middle Republican, and Upper Republican NRD's are submitting the following management actions to off-set the projected negative 42,650 acre foot deficit for 2013-2014.

The Upper Republican NRD has a deficit of 14,150 acre feet of which the entire amount will be made up by the Rock Creek Augmentation Project, by pumping approximately 20,420 acre feet.

The Middle Republican NRD has a deficit of 11,130 acre feet which will be made up in one of two different ways. First, the Middle will purchase 4,386 acre feet from the Frenchman Valley and H&RW stored in Enders Reservoir, approximately 78% or 3,421 acre fee will be credited to the Middle Republican balance. The remaining 7,709 acre feet will be offset by delivering 14,410 acre feet utilizing the N-CORPE project.

An alternate plan if surface water purchase is not finalized would be for the MRNRD to pump its 20,804 acre feet from N-CORPE to offset 11,130 acre feet.

The Lower Republican NRD has a deficit of 17,370 acre feet which will be off-set in the following manner. 2,325 acre feet will come from the 2014 Dry Year Lease program which we have signed contracts from all participants. 15,045 acre feet will come from the LRNRD share of the N-CORPE project by pumping 28,121 acre feet. Total management actions of 17,370 acre feet.

We are attaching the N-CORPE Wellfield Operation Policy which allows for shared services of the water provided by the project. We look forward to working with the Department in 2014 as we implement the management actions described above. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Michael Clements  
General Manager  
Lower Republican NRD



Jack Russell  
General Manager  
Middle Republican NRD



Jasper Fanning  
General Manager  
Upper Republican NRD

## NCORPE Wellfield Operation Policy.

The N-CORPE Board will determine the annual capacity of the NCORPE wellfield each year prior to December 1 of the preceeding year. The determination of the capacity of the NCORPE wellfield will be made utilizing a regional computer model set up and maintained by NCORPE. Consideration for the determination of the annual capacity of the NCORPE wellfield:

1. Water needs of the Districts
2. Computer modeled capacity over a selected number of years that could allow for varied annual usage amounts
3. That ground water mining will not occur over a selected number of years
4. Rises and declines of the ground water table could occur annually

Each Districts share of the capacity of the NCORPE wellfield is 25%.

For the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's 25% share of the capacity of the NCORPE wellfield, the District may use its share annually or it may store any of its share not used annually in the ground water aquifer underlying the NCORPE wellfield and use the stored water as it desires. The following shall be required of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District:

1. The District shall pay the operation and pumping costs prorated based on its share of the volume of pumping required by the District.
2. Should any limitation be imposed on NCORPE's operation of the project via allocation or other control in the Platte River Basin, NCORPE shall prorate that allocation to the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

For the Upper Republican Natural Resources District, the Middle Republican Natural Resources District, and the Lower Republican Natural Resources District 75% share of the capacity of the N-CORPE wellfield, the Districts may use their share annually or they may store any of their share not used annually in the ground water aquifer underlying the NCORPE wellfield and use the stored water as they desire. In a given year if one Republican River Basin District does not use it's or part of it's share of the capacity of the NCORPE wellfield, any of the other Republican River Basin Districts with needs in addition to its share of the project capacity shall be allowed to share the excess capacity on a prorated basis of needs for compliance with the Republican River Basin Districts compliance standards. The following shall be required of the Republican River Basin Districts:

1. A District shall pay the operation and pumping costs prorated based on its share of the volume of pumping required by the District.
2. Should any limitation be imposed on NCORPE's operation of the project via allocation or other control in the Republican River Basin, NCORPE shall prorate that allocation to the individual member Districts in the Republican River Basin.

- a. A Republican River Basin District cannot use more than its share of any allocation that might be imposed on NCORPE, that would prevent another Republican River Basin District from using its proportional share of any NCORPE allocation.
- b. On the Medicine Creek pipeline, if an allocation should be implemented, then a Republican River Basin District's annual share of the capacity shall be prorated based upon the percentage of unused allocation of each Republican River Basin district.
- c. Should an allocation be implemented in such a fashion that does not permit the conditions as stated above, then the Republican River Basin District prevented from using its share of the allocation will be reimbursed at the cost of \$200 per acre foot.