



**Dave Heineman**  
Governor

# STATE OF NEBRASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E.  
Director

April 8, 2013

IN REPLY TO:

**TO:** Interested Parties

**FROM:** Jesse Bradley, Integrated Water Management Division Head  
Department of Natural Resources

**SUBJECT:** Draft Revised Rules Title 457, Chapter 24, for the Department of Natural Resources

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (Department) is in the process of updating its rules related to the determination of fully appropriated basins, sub-basins, or reaches. These rules are utilized by the Department in conducting its Annual Evaluation of Availability of Hydrologically Connected Water Supplies (used to determine if new areas within Nebraska should be designated as fully appropriated).

The draft of the new rules and draft methodologies the Department would utilize to implement the rules through the Annual Evaluation are available at: <http://dnr.ne.gov/IWM/docs/DraftRulesChanges2013.pdf> and <http://dnr.ne.gov/IWM/docs/DraftMethods2013.pdf>. If you are unable to obtain a copy of these documents electronically, please contact Jesse Bradley of the Department at (402) 471-0586 or [jesse.bradley@nebraska.gov](mailto:jesse.bradley@nebraska.gov) to have a copy mailed to you.

In addition to the draft rules and methodologies, the Department created a timeline of the reports (with supporting data) with presentations describing the draft rules development process to date. This timeline, available at: [http://dnr.ne.gov/IWM/docs/FAB\\_Timeline.pdf](http://dnr.ne.gov/IWM/docs/FAB_Timeline.pdf) also denotes the process for proceeding forward toward promulgation of the rules.

As noted in the timeline, the Department will hold several public question and answer forums to take public comments prior to public hearings which are anticipated to be held this summer. The specific time and location for these public comment forums will be made available on our website in the coming weeks. In addition to these public comment forums, the Department will be setting up a web portal for electronic comments to be filed.

The Department looks forward to receiving your comments and thanks you for assisting in this rule making process.