

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
RELATING TO THE NORTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT AND THE  
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES INTEGRATED  
MANAGEMENT PLAN AND GROUND WATER AND SURFACE WATER CONTROLS

Pursuant to Section 46-718 of Nebraska Revised Statutes, the North Platte Natural Resources District (NPNRD) and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (Department) hereby provide notice that the NPNRD and the Department shall hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., at the North Platte Natural Resources District office, 100547 Airport Road, Scottsbluff, Nebraska. As required by Section 46-718(1), the purpose of the hearing is to take testimony concerning the proposed NPNRD/Department integrated management plan (IMP) and proposed controls. The proposed IMP and proposed controls encompass the entirety of the overappropriated and fully appropriated land area within the NPNRD. The proposed IMP includes goals, objectives, regulatory and non-regulatory surface water and ground water controls/action items for the fully appropriated and overappropriated portions of the NPNRD. The monitoring and studies section of the proposed IMP describes the procedure to monitor implementation progress and what additional data may need to be collected and evaluated. The process for modifications to the IMP is also included. The proposed ground water controls for the fully appropriated portion of the NPNRD consist of the following: 1) a moratorium on new well construction permits and expansion of ground water consumptive uses; 2) certification of ground water use; 3) provisions for ground water transfers; 4) municipal use accounting and offsets (this is an accounting system to keep track of required offsets due to municipal growth and assigns whether a municipality or the NPNRD is responsible for the offset, according to the amount of new or expanded consumptive use); and 6) non-municipal commercial and industrial use accounting and offsets (this is an accounting system to keep track of required offsets due to non-municipal industrial or commercial growth and assigns whether a

commercial/industrial user or the NPNRD is responsible for the offset, according to the amount of new or expanded consumptive use). The proposed ground water control for the overappropriated portion of the NPNRD, with the exception of the Pumpkin Creek Basin Ground Water Management Sub-Area, is an allocation of 56 inches per certified irrigated acre for a 4 year allocation period including a provision for combining the allocations for separate certified irrigated tracts into designated allocation units. The proposed controls for the Pumpkin Creek Basin Ground Water Management Sub-Area are those that are currently being implemented (moratorium, certification, and allocation including a provision for combining the allocations for separate certified irrigated tracts into designated allocation units) with the caveat that any allocation implemented in the future will not exceed the allocation for the rest of the overappropriated area within the NPNRD. The proposed surface water controls consist of the following: 1) maintaining the moratorium on new surface water appropriations; 2) transfers of appropriations would be subject to statutory criteria and Department rules; 3) continuation of surface water administration and monitoring of use of surface water; 4) no additional requirements of surface water appropriators to use additional conservation measures; and 5) no other reasonable restrictions on surface water use.

Any interested person may appear at the hearing and present written or oral testimony concerning the proposed IMP and proposed controls. Individuals with disabilities may request auxiliary aids and service necessary for participation by contacting the NPNRD or the Department by June 10, 2009. Testimony relevant to the purposes of the hearing may also be submitted in writing to the North Platte Natural Resources District, P.O. Box 280, Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0280; or to the Department of Natural Resources, 301 Centennial Mall South, P.O.

Box 94676, Lincoln, NE 68509-4676; or by electronic mail to the NPNRD at [rcacek@npnrd.org](mailto:rcacek@npnrd.org) or to the Department at [jim.schneider@nebraska.gov](mailto:jim.schneider@nebraska.gov) by 5:00 p.m., June 17, 2009.

For further information regarding the proposed IMP and proposed controls, or for the full text of the proposed IMP and proposed controls, refer to the NPNRD website, at <http://www.npnrd.org> or the Department's website, at <http://www.dnr.ne.gov>; contact the NPNRD or the Department at the addresses above; or contact the NPNRD at (308) 632-2749 or the Department at (402) 471-2363.

Following the public hearing on the proposed IMP and proposed controls, the NPNRD and the Department will make a joint decision within 60 days as to whether to implement the proposed IMP with or without modifications and whether to adopt and implement the ground water and surface water controls proposed in the IMP.