STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ORDER GRANTING PETITION VAR-4676 FOR LEAVE TO FILE OR CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR A NEW SURFACE WATER APPROPRIATION WITHIN A MORATORIUM OR STAY AREA

WATER DIVISION 1-B

BACKGROUND

1. On July 14, 2004, the Department of Natural Resources (Department) issued an Order declaring a formal moratorium in the Republican River Basin on the issuance of all new surface water appropriations.

2. On May 6, 2013, Hedke Boys, LLC (Petitioners), filed petition VAR-4676 in the Department for Leave to File or Consider an Application for a New Surface Water Appropriation within a Moratorium Area (Petition). The draft application and documentation attached to the petition is for a permit to impound approximately 40 acre-feet of water from Elm Creek in the existing Hedke Dam located in the SW¼SW¼ of Section 33, Township 3 North, Range 33 West of the 6th P.M. in Hitchcock County for the purpose of water for livestock.

3. An aerial photograph of the area dating from 2002, submitted with this petition, shows that Hedke Dam was constructed and impounding water at that time.

4. *Nebraska Revised Statutes* § 46-714(3)(n) allows for new surface water appropriations if the Department grants leave to file an application and subsequently approves a permit for such use.

5. When filing such a petition, a project proponent must offer a clearly stated basis for such request and must offer sufficient good cause shown. *Department of Natural Resources Rules for Surface Water, Title 457 Neb. Admin. Code* Chapter 23 lists six circumstances that may be put forward as justification for granting a petition to apply for a permit to impound water, in conjunction with an examination of good cause shown.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Petitioner has shown good cause in that the impoundment has been providing the benefit of water for livestock for many years.

2. Hedke Dam existed prior to the formal moratorium.

3. Therefore, petition VAR-4676 should be granted and the Petitioner should be allowed to file an application for a permit to impound water.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Petition VAR-4676 meets the requirement of *Department of Natural Resources Rules of Surface Water, Title 457 Neb. Admin. Code* Chapter 23, § 001.04, and is GRANTED.

2. This Order granting leave to file or consider an application for a new surface water appropriation within a moratorium or stay area pursuant to petition VAR-4676 shall be in effect for one year from the date this order is signed.

3. This decision shall not bind the Director to approve any application to which it relates, or in any way be used as evidence of prejudice for the Director's future decisions concerning the specific approval requirements of such an application.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

April 7, 2015

James C. Schneider, Ph.D.
Acting Director

A copy of this Order was posted on the Department's website. A copy of this Order was provided to the Department's field office in Cambridge, Nebraska. A copy of this Order was mailed on April 7, 2015, to the following:

Hedke Boys, LLC
c/o Quentin D. Hedke
P.O. Box 381
Trenton, Nebraska 69044