

STATE OF NEBRASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
APPROVAL OF APPLICATION A-19915,  
PLAN NUMBER 21173 AND MAP OF RESERVOIR NUMBRER 21180  
WATER DIVISION 1-F

BACKGROUND

1. On March 17, 2023, Robert Rottinghaus filed in the Department of Natural Resources (Department) the following applications:
  - A. A-19911 for a permit to impound supplemental water from Johnson Creek for an amount not to exceed 114.0 acre-feet per year.
  - B. Approval of plans for dams, construction specifications and plan number 21173.
  - C. A-19912 for a permit to appropriate water from Rottinghaus Reservoir (storage applications A-19911 and A-19915).
2. On March 23, 2023, Robert Rottinghaus filed in the Department application A-19915 for a permit to impound water from a tributary to Johnson Creek for an amount not to exceed 114.0 acre-feet per year. Based on the 79.5 acre-feet capacity of the reservoir, the applicant requests 1.4 fills per year.
3. The plan is for a proposed dam subject to the *Safety of Dams and Reservoirs Act*.
4. Andrew Rieschick, Rieschick Engineering & Consulting, 70656 649<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Falls City, Nebraska 68355, prepared the drawings and construction specifications.
5. The drawings and construction specifications were examined by a Registered Professional Engineer of the Department and were found to be consistent with current standards.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED Application A-19915, plan number 21173 and map of reservoir number 21180 are APPROVED subject to the following limitations and conditions:

1. The source of water is a tributary to Johnson Creek.
2. The priority date is March 23, 2023.
3. The water to be stored under this appropriation is for the purpose of providing water to storage-use appropriation A-19912 for an irrigation project authorized under natural-flow appropriation A-19913.

4. The amount of water that may be diverted shall not exceed 114.0 acre-feet per year to be stored in Rottinghaus Reservoir. Based on the 79.5 acre-feet capacity of the reservoir, the applicant requests 1.4 fills per year. The dam that impounds water in Rottinghaus Reservoir will be located in the E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Section 32, Township 01 North, Range 11 East of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M. in Pawnee County.
5. *Nebraska Revised Statutes* § 46-241(5) states in part, "The owner or possessor of a reservoir or intentional underground water storage facility does not have the right to store water in such reservoir or facility during the time that such water is required downstream in ditches for direct irrigation or for any reservoir or facility holding a senior right. Every person who owns, controls or operates a reservoir or intentional underground water storage facility, except political subdivisions of this state, shall be required to pass ... a portion of the measured inflows to furnish water for livestock ... ."
6. The owner or possessor of the reservoir storing water pursuant to A-19915 shall have structural controls in place or other mechanical means to immediately release a portion of the measured inflows in such amounts and at such times if so ordered by the Department.
7. A continuous recording device approved by the Department to monitor reservoir levels may be required if so ordered by the Department.
8. The appropriator must comply with all relevant statutes. These relevant statutory requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - A. Notify the Department of any change in ownership or address.
  - B. Receive approval prior to taking any action that changes the storage capacity of this reservoir, the construction specifications, plan number 21173, or the type of appropriation.
  - C. Construct, operate and maintain the structure in accordance with *Neb. Rev. Stat.* § 46-241 and the *Safety of Dams and Reservoirs Act*, §§ 46-1601 to 46-1670.
  - D. Assume liability for all damages due to leakage, overflow or structural failure of the structure.
  - E. Release a portion of the reservoir inflows for livestock where required, unless appropriator is a political subdivision.
9. The appropriator must comply with the following deadlines:
  - A. The owner of the dam shall provide written notice to the Department at least ten days before construction, reconstruction, enlargement, alteration, breach, removal, or abandonment of the dam is to begin. Notices must be in writing and addressed to the Chief Engineer or the Construction Inspector of the Department's Dam Safety Section. Notices may be delivered to the Department by mail, facsimile or electronic mail.

- B. Construction of the structure must begin within twelve months of the signing date of this application approval. The appropriator must proceed diligently with the construction unless interrupted by some unavoidable and natural cause.
- C. November 1, 2025, is the date construction of the structure must be completed.
- D. Upon completion of the structure, the appropriator shall file with the Department the enclosed "Construction Certification Form for Dams." Following receipt of this form, an approval to operate shall be issued by the Department if it determines that the dam is safe to impound within the limitations outlined in this Order. No impoundment in the structure shall occur prior to issuance of the approval to operate.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Failure to comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to surface water appropriations and any orders issued by the Director of the Department of Natural Resources may result in the cancellation of the appropriation, temporary closing of the appropriation, administrative penalty, criminal prosecution, or any combination thereof.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



November 3, 2023

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Thomas E. Riley, P.E., Director

A copy of this Order was posted on the Department's website. Copies of this Order, engineering review report, plan number 21173 and map of reservoir 21180 were provided to the Department's field office in Lincoln, Nebraska. Copies of this Order and a "Construction Certification Form for Dams" were mailed to the following:

Andrew Rieschick, P.E.,  
Rieschick Engineering & Consulting, LLC  
70656 649<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Falls City, Nebraska 68355

Copies of this Order, plan number 21173, map of reservoir 21180 and a "Construction Certification Form for Dams" were mailed to the following:

Robert Rottinghaus  
2824 F Road  
Baileyville, Kansas 66404  
[design@nvcs.com](mailto:design@nvcs.com)