



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**
Omaha District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application Number: 2007-110-KEA
Applicant: Nebraska Public Power District
Waterway: Sutherland Reservoir/Gerald Gentleman Cooling Pond
Issue Date: January 25, 2007
Expiration Date: February 15, 2007

21-DAY NOTICE

Reply To:
Kearney Regulatory Office
1430 Central Avenue Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 234-1403

<https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rne/nehome.html>

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE: This public notice is issued jointly by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). The NDEQ, PO Box 98922, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922, will review the proposed project for state certification in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. NDEQ hereby incorporates this public notice as its own public notice and procedures by reference thereto. For the purposes of NDEQ, this public notice will expire 30 days from the above issue date.

AUTHORITY: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344).

APPLICANT: Nebraska Public Power District 1414 15th Street PO Box 499 Columbus, NE 68602-0499

PROJECT LOCATION: Near the center of Section 16, Township 13 North, Range 33 West, Lincoln County, NE

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The water exiting the cooling basin must be of a certain temperature as required by the applicant's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The applicant is proposing to modify the cooling system so as to retain water in the pond for longer periods of time to enhance the cooling process.

The scope of the project includes the installation of a baffle system into the existing cooling pond to achieve better cooling prior to discharge into Sutherland Reservoir. The project will consist of the construction of four rock revetments approximately 1,180 (total) feet in length and a Geomembrane baffle system approximately 5,840 (total) feet long. The project also includes dredging approximately 30,000 cubic yards of sediment from the south side of the cooling pond.

Four rock revetments: Each revetment will have a top width of 12½ feet, with 2(h) : 1(v) side slopes. The revetments will be constructed using Type B broken quarry stone or broken concrete, crushed rock and granular fill. Type B riprap will be used to cover all sides (except the top) of the revetment once all the various materials have been placed.

Revetment A will be approximately 415 feet long and will consist of approximately 3,700 cubic yards of base riprap, 300 cy of crushed rock, 230 cy of granular fill and 800 cy of cover riprap.

Revetment B will be approximately 150 feet long and will consist of approximately 4,450 cubic yards of base riprap,

100 cy of crushed rock, 80 cy of granular fill and 700 cy of cover riprap.

Revetment C1 will be approximately 150 feet long and will consist of approximately 4,200 cubic yards of base riprap, 100 cy of crushed rock, 80 cy of granular fill and 700 cy of cover riprap.

Revetment C2 will be approximately 457 feet long and will consist of approximately 4,800 cubic yards of base riprap, 330 cy of crushed rock, 250 cy of granular fill and 900 cy of cover riprap.

Each revetment will have an anchor system installed in the granular fill layer. Each anchor will consist of a concrete block, containing approximately 7.8 cy of concrete. The concrete anchor block will be connected to an 8-inch stainless steel pipe and will extend out into the cooling pond. The Geomembrane baffle will be held in place using an anchoring system, either anchored to the bottom of the pond or free-floating with anchors to hold it down.

From the end of Revetment A, Baffle A will extend approximately 2,150 feet in a westerly direction. The baffle will extend to the bottom of the pond and the top of the baffle will float. From the end of Revetment B, Baffle B will extend approximately 2,900 feet in an easterly direction. The baffle will extend to the bottom of the pond and the top will float. Baffle C will be approximately 800 feet long and connect Revetment C1 and C2. Baffle C will allow approximately 1,250 cubic feet per second of water to pass either through the windows or under the material. The top will float.

Wave action has eroded sediment from the south bank making the pond in this area very shallow. The project will also include dredging the sediment from the basin. The dredged material will be placed in a settling basin constructed in an upland area south of the cooling pond. The settling basin will be constructed with an overflow structure which will allow water to return to the cooling pond after the sediment has had an opportunity to settle out in the basin. Return flow from the settling basin will re-enter the cooling basin via a vegetated waterway.

PROJECT PURPOSE: As required by the NPDES permit, water discharged from the cooling pond to the Sutherland Reservoir cannot exceed 94°F. In an effort to meet the regulatory requirements of the NPDES permit, installation of the baffle system is required for an estimated 1°F of cooling over the existing system.

SPECIAL AQUATIC SITES: No special aquatic sites will be impacted

CULTURAL RESOURCES: No activity which may affect historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places is authorized, until the District Engineer has complied with the provisions of 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: In compliance with the Endangered Species Act, a preliminary determination has been made that the described work will not affect species designated as threatened or endangered or adversely affect critical habitat. In order to complete our evaluation of this activity, comments are solicited from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

FLOODPLAIN: This activity is being reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, which discourages direct or indirect support of floodplain development whenever there is a practicable alternative. By this notice, comments are requested from individuals and agencies that believe the described work will adversely impact the floodplain.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) requires that all discharges of fill material must be certified by the appropriate state agency as complying with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. This public notice serves as an application to the state in which the discharge

site is located for certification of the discharge. The discharge must be certified before a Department of the Army permit can be issued. Certification, if issued, expresses the state's opinion that the discharge will not violate applicable water quality standards.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW: The decision whether to issue the Corps' permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against their reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the work on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).

COMMENTS: The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and Local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

Anyone whose interests may be affected by the proposed/completed work is invited to submit favorable or unfavorable written comments to the **Kearney Regulatory Office 1430 Central Avenue Kearney, NE 68847-6856 or send an e-mail to barbara.j.friskopp@usace.army.mil**. The District Engineer is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposal's probable impacts on the affected aquatic system's functional values, cumulative and secondary effects and endangered species. All comments received will be considered public information; copies of all comments, including names and addresses of commentors, may be provided to the applicant unless confidentiality is requested. Comments must be submitted on or before the expiration date (located at the top of the first page) of this notice to be considered in the subsequent actions on this application.

PUBLIC HEARING: Before the expiration date of this notice, anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. If the District Engineer determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted, interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For additional information, please call Mrs. Barb Friskopp at (308) 234-1403.

REQUEST TO POSTMASTERS: Please post this notice conspicuously and continuously until the expiration date specified at the top of page one.

NOTICE TO EDITORS: This notice is provided as background information for your use in formatting news stories. This notice is not a contract for classified display or advertising.