



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**
Omaha District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application Number: NWO-2007-3190-KEA Amendment #3
Applicant: Loup Power District
Waterway: Loup River
Issue Date: November 2, 2007
Expiration Date: November 23, 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 U.S. 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: Loup Power District PO Box 988 2404 15th Street Columbus, NE 68602-0988

PROJECT LOCATION: N½ Section 32, Township 17 North, Range 4 West, Nance County, Nebraska

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant is proposing to continue the maintenance dredging activity in the power canal for another ten years. The maintenance dredging has been an on-going activity since 1937. Their first permit was issued in 1977 (permit number NE 2SB OXT 2 001213). Amendment #1 was issued in 1988 (NE 2SB OXT 2 001213 Amendment #1) and Amendment #2 was issued in 1998 (NE 88-01213 Amendment #2).

River sediments build up in the settling basin, reducing the capacity of the hydropower canal. Sediments are hydraulically dredged from the settling basin and conveyed via pipeline to previously established disposal areas along both sides of the canal on property owned by the applicant. The disposal areas also serve as detention areas; sediments settle out of the water before the water is returned to the Loup River. Return water from the west end of the north area flows to the far northwest corner to a decant pipe and meanders back to the Loup River. Return water from the east end of the north area runs into a ditch, through two small lakes/ponds and then into the canal. The south disposal area is sufficiently far from the river that the sediments have adequate time to filter/settle out prior to the water re-entering the river. Towards the east end of the settling basin, where the river is especially close to the basin, there are two settling ponds which are diked off from the river proper. Slurry is pumped into the basins and sediments settle out before the water re-enters the river.

Approximately 1 - 1½ million cubic yards of sediment will be dredged from the settling basin per year and placed in the disposal areas.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The purpose of the project is to remove accumulated sediment from the settling basin to allow continued operation of the hydropower canal 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.