

## Press Release

### *Loup Power District Files First Document in the Relicensing Process*

On October 16, 2008 Loup Power District in Columbus, Nebraska submitted its Notice of Intent to file for a new license for the Loup River Hydroelectric Project to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Concurrently, the District also submitted its Pre-Application Document. This submission is the first among many milestones in a 5 ½ year relicensing process for the Loup River Hydroelectric Project.

The Pre-Application Document describes the project and the environment in which it exists, including information gathered from agencies and the public at early consultation meetings. It also summarizes the potential resource issues and data needs identified by stakeholders to be addressed in future phases of the relicensing process.

Loup Power District held three public open houses in June 2008 to introduce and informally initiate the FERC relicensing process. District representatives shared information about the history and operation of the hydroelectric project and the FERC relicensing process. The public also had the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Since June, there have been additional meetings and discussions with numerous federal, state and local agencies, tribal interests, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

The next phase of the process will occur this winter when FERC will issue a scoping document and conduct formal scoping meetings. Scoping, part of the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, provides an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the Pre-Application Document, the purpose and need of the project, the types of alternatives to be considered, and identify issues and concerns that should be addressed prior to issuing a new license.

The Notice of Intent, Pre-Application Document, and additional information on the Loup River Hydroelectric Project can be found on the project website: [www.loup.com/relicense](http://www.loup.com/relicense). Copies of the documents are also available for review at the following locations:

Loup Power District – General Office  
2404 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Columbus, NE

Columbus Public Library  
2504 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Columbus, NE

Genoa Public Library  
421 Willard Avenue  
Genoa, NE