



LOUP POWER DISTRICT

"SERVING YOU ELECTRICALLY"

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Via Electronic Filing

July 27, 2009

Honorable Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: Loup River Hydroelectric Project
FERC Project No. 1256
Revised Study Plan

Dear Secretary Bose:

Loup River Public Power District (Loup Power District or District) herein electronically files its Revised Study Plan (RSP) for relicensing the Loup River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 1256 (Project). The District is the owner, operator, and original licensee of the Project. The existing license was effective on December 1, 1982, for a term ending April 15, 2014. Loup Power District is utilizing the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) for this relicensing effort. Therefore, pursuant to 18 CFR §5.11 and §5.13, the District is filing its RSP.

Electronic copies of the RSP are available on the District's relicensing website: www.loup.com/relicense, as well as on the Commission's eLibrary. Notice of the availability of this document is being provided to all relicensing participants, including federal and state resource agencies, local governments, and Native American tribes. A distribution list of those parties is attached. Additionally, copies of the RSP will be available at the District's office in Columbus, Nebraska.

In accordance with 18 CFR §5.15, the District will file its Initial Study Report in August 2010 and conduct a meeting to discuss study results within 15 days. Additionally, the District will provide quarterly progress reports for all studies beginning in December 2009.

If you have any questions regarding the RSP or any information provided by the District, please contact me at (402) 564-3171 ext. 268.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Distribution List
Revised Study Plan

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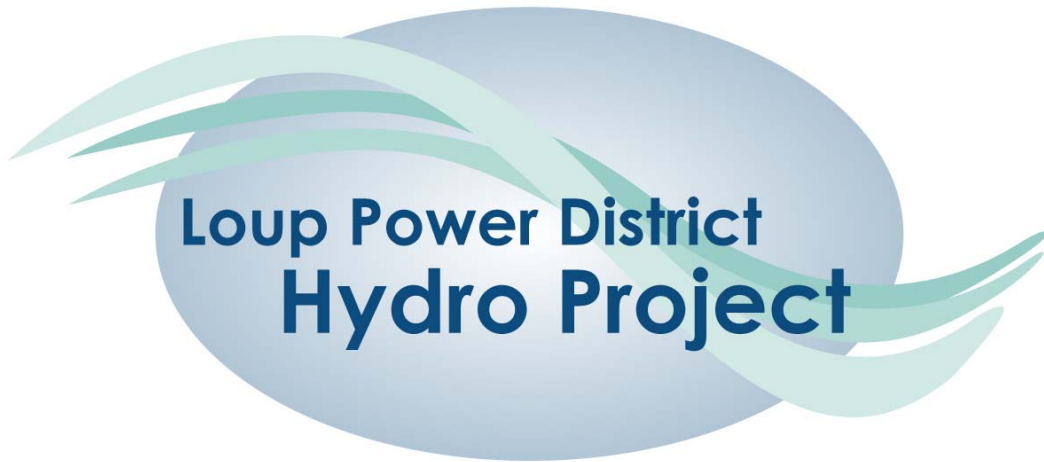
LOUP RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT FERC PROJECT No. 1256

REVISED STUDY PLAN



Loup Power District
Hydro Project

JULY 27, 2009



**Loup River Hydroelectric Project
FERC Project No. 1256**

Revised Study Plan

July 27, 2009

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Prepared by:
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With assistance by:
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REVISED STUDY PLAN	1
1. BACKGROUND AND PROCESS TO DATE	1
2. PROPOSED STUDY PLAN	3
3. SCOPING DOCUMENT 2.....	3
4. STUDY PLAN MEETINGS.....	4
4.1 April 21, 2009 – Study Plan Overview and Aquatic Resources	4
4.2 May 5, 2009 – Cultural Resources.....	4
4.3 May 11, 2009 – Recreation, Land Use, and Aesthetics Resources	4
4.4 May 27 & 28, 2009 – Aquatic Resources.....	5
5. COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED STUDY PLAN	5
6. PROPOSED STUDIES	9
7. STUDY PLAN DETERMINATION	16
8. STUDY PROGRESS REPORTS	16

APPENDIX A STUDY PLANS

1.0 SEDIMENTATION	1-1
2.0 HYDROCYCLING	2-1
3.0 WATER TEMPERATURE IN THE PLATTE RIVER.....	3-1
4.0 WATER TEMPERATURE IN THE LOUP RIVER BYPASS REACH	4-1
5.0 FLOW DEPLETION AND FLOW DIVERSION.....	5-1
6.0 FISH SAMPLING	6-1
7.0 FISH PASSAGE.....	7-1
8.0 RECREATION USE	8-1
9.0 CREEL SURVEY	9-1
10.0 LAND USE INVENTORY	10-1
11.0 SECTION 106 COMPLIANCE	11-1
12.0 ICE JAM FLOODING ON THE LOUP RIVER	12-1

APPENDIX B RESPONSES TO STUDY REQUESTS

1.0 WHOOPING CRANE POWER LINE IMPACT EVALUATION.....	B-1
2.0 FLOW DEPLETIONS IN THE LOUP RIVER EVALUATION	B-9
3.0 WATER QUALITY EVALUATION	B-11
4.0 FISH SAMPLING OF THE LOUP POWER CANAL	B-25

REVISED STUDY PLAN

1. BACKGROUND AND PROCESS TO DATE

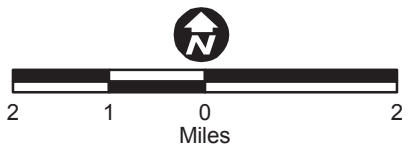
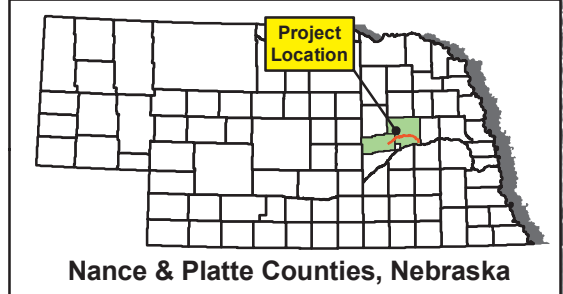
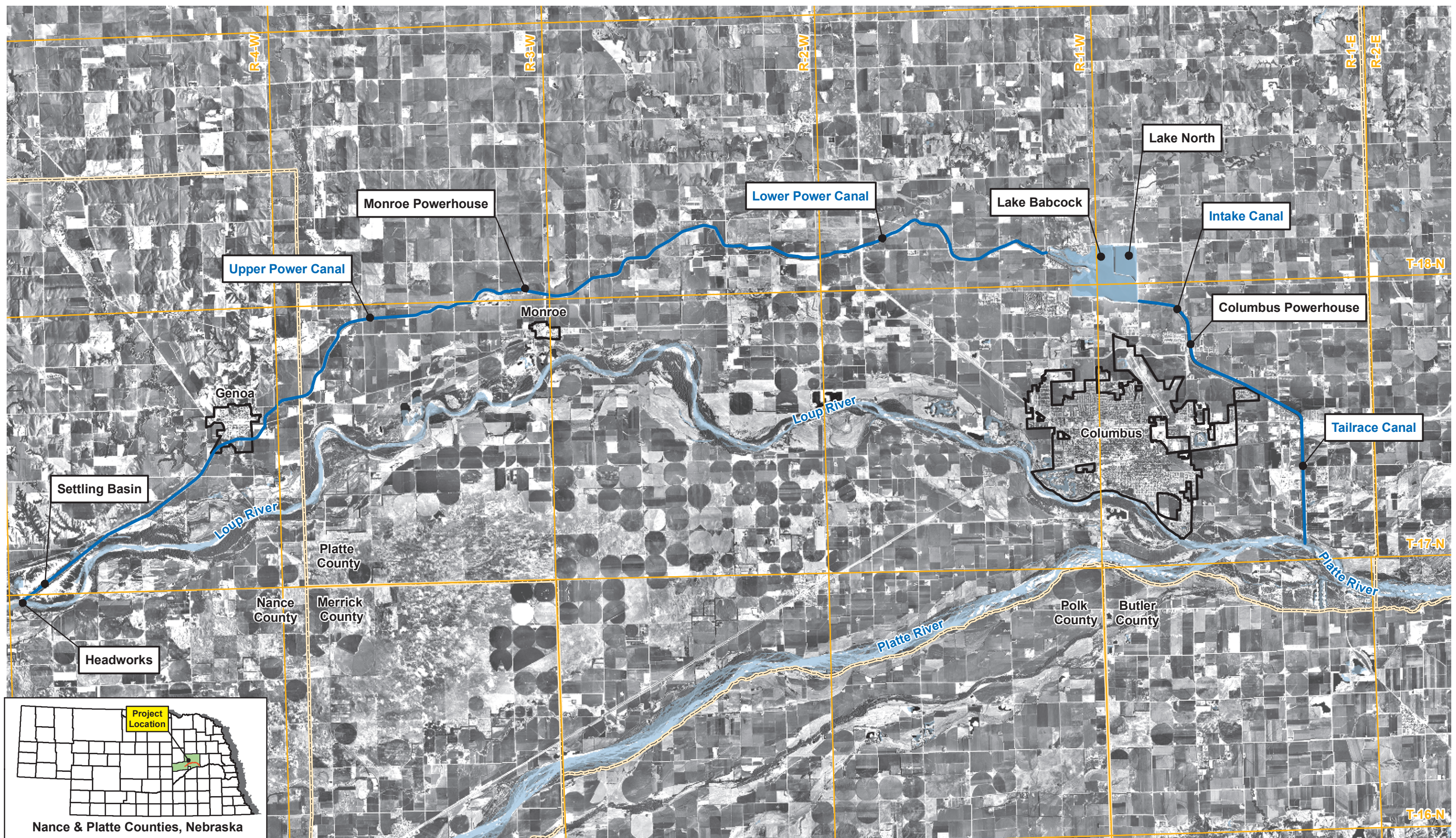
Loup River Public Power District (Loup Power District or the District) has prepared this Revised Study Plan (RSP) for filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as part of relicensing the Loup River Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1256). The Loup River Hydroelectric Project (Project) is located in Nance and Platte counties, Nebraska, where water is diverted from the Loup River and routed through the 35-mile-long Loup Power Canal, which empties into the Platte River near Columbus. The Project includes various hydraulic structures, two powerhouses, and two regulating reservoirs, as shown in Figure 1. The current license for the Project expires on April 15, 2014. Therefore, the District is seeking a new license to continue to operate the Project.

In May 2008, the District initiated a formal outreach effort to provide stakeholders with information about the Project and the relicensing process, to identify resource issues, and to develop preliminary study concepts prior to filing the Notice of Intent (NOI) and Pre-Application Document (PAD). During the summer of 2008, the District held agency meetings, public open houses, and workgroup meetings (workgroups were established related to Water Rights and Recreation/Land Use/Aesthetics). At the conclusion of these meetings, the District sorted, combined, and compiled the issues, concerns, questions, and study requests into 11 proposed studies, which were listed and described in the PAD.

The NOI and PAD were filed on October 16, 2008, which initiated the relicensing process for the Project under FERC's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) (18 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 5). The PAD summarizes the initial list of potential issues, concerns, and questions identified during the agency and workgroup meetings. In addition, the PAD lists and briefly describes proposed studies or information-gathering efforts to address these issues as well as describes the identified issues that the District believes can be resolved with available existing information or that are not related to Project relicensing and provides discussion as to why no formal study is necessary for these issues.

Following acceptance of the PAD, FERC issued Scoping Document 1 (SD1) on December 12, 2008. The purpose of SD1 was to provide information on the Project and to solicit comments and suggestions on the preliminary list of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment (EA). On January 12 and 13, 2009, FERC conducted a site visit and public and agency scoping meetings. The site visit and scoping meetings were held to provide FERC and other agencies and stakeholders an opportunity to become familiar with the Project and to provide and receive direct input on the proposed scope of the EA. Subsequent to the FERC scoping meetings, letters and e-filed comments were submitted by agencies, other stakeholders, and the public.

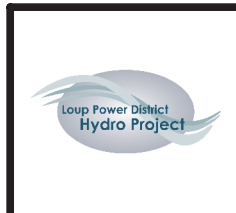
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Aerial Imagery: 2006 National Agricultural Inventory Project, Nance and Platte Counties Mosaic.
 Streams/Lakes: 2000 Tiger Line Files, Platte and Nance Counties.

Legend

- Loup Power Canal
- Corporate Limits
- Township/Range
- County Line



Project Location

Loup River Hydroelectric Project
 FERC Project No. 1256
 Proposed Study Plan

© 2009 Loup River Public Power District

DATE	July 2009
FIGURE	1

2. PROPOSED STUDY PLAN

The District's Proposed Study Plan (PSP) was prepared in accordance with 18 CFR 5.11 and was filed on March 27, 2009. It consisted of study plans for the 11 studies proposed in the PAD as well as for an additional study requested by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)—Study 12.0, Ice Jam Flooding on the Loup River. In addition, the PSP provided the District's rationale for why some agency study requests were not adopted by the District.

3. SCOPING DOCUMENT 2

Also on March 27, 2009, FERC issued Scoping Document 2 (SD2) based on the verbal comments received at the scoping meetings and written comments received throughout the scoping process. The purpose of SD2 is to clarify issues identified in SD1 based on information received during the scoping process, to advise all participants about additional issues identified for inclusion in the proposed scope of the EA, and to seek additional information pertinent to these analyses.

SD2 clarified the following issues related to the proposed studies and study requests that were raised during the scoping process:

- Hydrocycling – FERC concluded that evaluation of fish stranding and mortality in the Tailrace Canal is not necessary.
- Water Temperature in the Loup River Bypass Reach – FERC clarified the primary reach of concern as the reach between the Diversion Weir and the Beaver Creek confluence.
- Fish Passage – FERC recommended that this study include evaluation of fish passage for all migratory fish species present.
- Ice Jam Flooding on the Loup River – FERC indicated that this study request would be discussed during the study plan process.
- Electrical transmission and Distribution Lines – FERC concluded that the Project does not include any primary transmission lines and that potential impacts of the District's other transmission and distribution lines are unrelated to Project relicensing.
- Water Quality – FERC concluded that evaluation of water quality impacts of non-point source pollutants unrelated to Project operations is not pertinent to relicensing.
- FERC limited the issue of potential effects of project operations on PCB mobilization to effects related to the Federally listed interior least tern. FERC specifically excluded consideration of downstream effects of PCBs related to pallid sturgeon.

4. STUDY PLAN MEETINGS

Following the filing of the PSP, and consistent with requirements under 18 CFR 5.11(e), the District conducted an initial study plan meeting with agencies and other stakeholders within 30 days of the deadline for filing the PSP. In addition, the District conducted three additional study plan meetings. These meetings are summarized below, and details regarding specific comments related to each study are included in the respective study plan. Discussions from these meetings were documented in meeting notes or meeting transcripts, which are available on the District's relicensing website (<http://www.loup.com/relicense/html/agencymeetingsresources.html>).

4.1 April 21, 2009 – Study Plan Overview and Aquatic Resources

This meeting provided an overview of all 12 studies included in the District's PSP and provided agencies and other stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on any of the studies included in the PSP. Additionally, the goals and objectives of the aquatic resources studies (studies 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, and 7.0) were discussed in detail. Consensus was reached on the majority of goals and objectives for the aquatic resources studies and documented in a memorandum (available on the District's relicensing website listed above).

The meeting was attended by representatives of FERC, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Park Service (NPS), Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership (TPCP), Cornhusker Public Power District, the City of Columbus, Lower Loup Natural Resources District, U.S. Senate, Nebraska Off Highway Vehicle Association (NOHVA), Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), and New Century Environmental.

4.2 May 5, 2009 – Cultural Resources

On May 5, 2009, the District met with the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (Nebraska SHPO) to discuss Study 11.0, Section 106 Compliance. The District and Nebraska SHPO toured the Project and discussed the historic context of the Project and the goals, objectives, and major tasks of Study 11.0. Nebraska SHPO did not have any comments on or revisions to the study plan and determined that the study plan satisfies the needs for Section 106 compliance.

4.3 May 11, 2009 – Recreation, Land Use, and Aesthetics Resources

On May 11, 2009, the District conducted a separate meeting to discuss the specifics of studies related to recreation, land use, and aesthetics (studies 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0). This meeting was attended by representatives from FERC, NPS, NGPC, Columbus Area Recreational Trails, Inc. (CART), NOHVA, and the Platte County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Several revisions to Study 8.0, Recreation User Survey, and Study 9.0, Creel Survey were suggested at this meeting, including combining the two studies. These revisions are summarized in Section 7 of Study 8.0, Recreation Use. Minor revisions to Study 10.0, Land Use Inventory, were also suggested.

4.4 May 27 & 28, 2009 – Aquatic Resources

On May 27-28, 2009, the District conducted a follow-up meeting to discuss in detail the specific activities associated with the aquatic resources studies (studies 1.0, 2.0, 4.0, 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, and 12.0). Consensus was reached on the majority of activities for the aquatic resources studies; where consensus could not be reached, those present agreed to disagree and move forward. After the meeting, the District distributed a memorandum summarizing the proposed changes to study goals, objectives, and activities (including areas of consensus reached at the meeting) that it intended to make in the RSP.

The meeting was attended by representatives of FERC, NGPC, NDEQ, NDNR, USFWS, NPS, TPCP, the City of Columbus, Lower Loup Natural Resources District, Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, NOHVA, NPPD, and New Century Environmental.

5. COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED STUDY PLAN

The District received and responded to comments on its PSP through the study plan meeting process, described above. The District used this process to work collaboratively with agencies and other stakeholders to resolve issues and concerns related to the proposed studies.

In addition to the verbal comments received during the multiple study plan meetings, written comments on the PSP were received from NPS, USFWS, NDNR, and NGPC. Upon receipt of written comments on the PSP, the District carefully considered whether the comments would result in study revisions and/or additions that would need to be accounted for in the RSP. All comments pertained to revisions or comments on proposed studies; no new study requests were submitted. Table 1 summarizes the written comments and the applicable District responses.

Table 1. Written Comments on PSP and District Responses

Agency	Comment	District Response
National Park Service	NPS is supportive of the Recreation User Survey as presented in the PSP and revised as reflected in the May 11, 2009, meeting transcript.	The District appreciates NPS review and support.
	NPS is supportive of combining studies 8.0 and 9.0 into Study 8.0, Recreation Use.	The District has combined Study 8.0, Recreation User Survey, and Study 9.0, Creel Survey, as presented in the PSP, into Study 8.0, Recreation Use, in the RSP.
	NPS is supportive of the goal for recreation analysis for the Project to be “Determine public awareness, usage, and demand for the projects’ existing recreation facilities, determine if potential improvements are needed, and develop a Recreation Plan to meet existing and future recreation needs.”	The District has incorporated this comment and revised the goal of Study 8.0, Recreation Use, in the RSP as follows: “To determine the public awareness, usage, perception and demand of the Project’s existing recreation facilities (including fisheries), to determine if potential improvements are needed, and to develop a Recreation Management Plan to address existing and future recreation needs.”
	NPS notes that Tailrace Park is in need of further maintenance and upgrading, which should be discussed as part of the Recreation Use study and reflected in the protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures for the Project.	The District is aware of the vandalism problems that have occurred at Tailrace Park and has attempted to remedy this problem multiple times in the past. As part of the proposed Recreation Management Plan, the District will explore additional remedies to this problem, including potential partnerships with community organizations willing to take “ownership” of the area.
	NPS states that an inventory and analysis of recreation facilities should be undertaken as part of the Recreation Use study, with both current and future Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) considerations given.	The District references the PAD, which includes an inventory of recreation facilities and makes note of those that are ADA compliant. As part of the proposed Recreation Management Plan, improvements and/or additions to ADA-compliant facilities will be evaluated.
	NPS supports FERC’s study request titled “Recreation Use Within Project Boundary & Along Bypass Reach” and if this study does not move forward, recommends that recreation use and analysis of the Loup River bypass reach be incorporated in the Recreation Use study.	The District continues to oppose the inclusion of the Loup River bypass reach in Study 8.0, Recreation Use, in the RSP. Therefore, no related analysis is proposed in the RSP. Specifics as to why the Loup River bypass reach is excluded from recreation analysis is provided in Study 8.0, Recreation Use, Section 5, Study Area and Study Sites.

Agency	Comment	District Response
National Park Service (continued)	NPS is supportive of the Land Use Inventory as presented in the PSP and revised as reflected in the May 11, 2009, meeting transcript.	The District appreciates NPS review and support.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	USFWS provided general and specific comments on proposed studies 1.0, Sedimentation; 2.0, Hydrocycling; 4.0, Water Temperature in the Loup River Bypass Reach; and 5.0, Flow Depletion and Flow Diversion.	The District’s detailed response to USFWS comments are included as attachments to the respective study plans.
	USFWS provided specific comments related to evaluation of PCBs based on a PCB study concept (Study 13.0) discussed at the May 27-28, 2009, Study Plan Meeting.	The District rescinded the PCB study concept (Study 13.0) discussed at the May 27-28, 2009, Study Plan Meeting based on the consensus of meeting attendees. Because Study 13.0 is not included in the Revised Study Plan, the District has provided responses to USFWS’ comments in Appendix B, Response 3.0, Water Quality Evaluation..
	<p>USFWS provided a general comment (comment 7) related to study plan execution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USFWS states that the Project does not provide adequate detail in regard to a schedule for conducting the study and provisions for periodic progress reports, including manner for technical review and results. • USFWS requests that all study plan deliverables include a description of study methods and a summarization of study results. USFWS also states that raw data should be supplied with study result summaries. • USFWS requests that an independent scientific review be conducted for any study implications or applications produced by Project contractors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District fully intends to comply with the specified ILP regulations regarding “Conduct of Studies” (18 CFR 5.15). These regulations define study schedule, including progress reports and technical reviews. • The District intends to include study methods and results in all study reports. Consistent with 18 CFR 5.15(b), the District will provide documentation of study results upon request of any participant. • The District intends to be transparent in its findings and has no opposition to independent scientific review – so long as it is performed within the specified ILP schedule and at no cost to the District.

Agency	Comment	District Response
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources	<p>NDNR is dissatisfied with Study 12.0, Ice Jam Flooding on the Loup River, stating that it does not respond to NDNR's concerns regarding what effect Project operations may have on ice jam flooding in the Platte River Basin. NDNR does not believe that the objectives and activities of the study will establish whether Project operations affect ice jam flooding, but stated that the objectives could be characterized as possible preparations toward a study. NDNR requests an actual study, not merely the proposed gathering data and analyzing its suitability for a study. NDNR contracted with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Omaha District to develop a study methodology to address NDNR's concerns (attached to comment letter). NDNR requests that the District adopt the USACE methodology and conduct the study.</p>	<p>The District recognizes NDNR's concerns regarding the proposed study plan and contacted the Omaha District of the USACE prior to the May 27-28, 2009, Study Plan Meeting for assistance in refining the proposed study plan. At that time, the Omaha District indicated that it did not have availability to assist with preparation of a study plan and suggested that the District contact the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) for assistance. The District contacted CRREL and received a proposal to conduct a study, which has been incorporated into Study 12.0, Ice Jam Flooding on the Loup River. The District's detailed response to the NDNR study request and proposed USACE methodology is included as Attachment C to Study 12.0.</p>
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	<p>NGPC noted that during the May 11, 2009, meeting there was a recommendation to modify Study 8.0, Recreation User Survey, as presented in the PSP, to include the Loup Lands Wildlife Management Area (WMA) that is managed by NGPC. NGPC believes that it is not necessary to include the area in the survey at this time.</p>	<p>The District appreciates NGPC review and supports NGPC's comment regarding the unnecessary nature of including the Loup Lands WMA in the recreation use survey associated with Study 8.0, Recreation Use. As such, Study 8.0, Recreation Use, does not include the Loup Lands WMA as a study area or study site (see Study 8.0, Recreation Use, Section 5).</p>
	<p>NGPC acknowledged that Study 6.0, Fish Sampling, will not be included as part of Project relicensing. Rather, the District will cooperate with NGPC to provide access for future NGPC-performed sampling.</p>	<p>The District will work with NGPC to facilitate access for future NGPC fish sampling activities at NGPC's convenience.</p>

6. PROPOSED STUDIES

This RSP was prepared in accordance with 18 CFR 5.13 to specifically address all comments received on the PSP. The RSP consists of revised study plans for the 12 studies proposed in the PSP. In accordance with 18 CFR 5.13(a), each study plan in the RSP includes a description of the agency coordination that occurred during development of the RSP, including efforts made to resolve differences over study requests. For any requested study that the District did not adopt in the RSP, the District explains the rationale for its decision with reference to the criteria set forth in 18 CFR 5.9(b).

The studies that were included in the District's PSP are listed in Table 2. In the RSP, some of these studies have been eliminated based on discussions at the study plan meetings. The goals, objectives, and activities of the remaining studies have been refined through the study plan meeting process. These studies are being conducted to provide information for development of the EA prepared as part of Project relicensing as well as information for use in preparing a biological assessment in compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. These studies will provide a better understanding of how Project operations may affect sediment, water resources, and other issues related to river ecology and habitat as well as recreational and cultural resources. Detailed plans for these studies are included in Appendix A. All proposed studies are slated to be performed over approximately 1 year following FERC's Study Plan Determination (first study season). Depending on the initial results, some studies may need to be modified or extended for an additional year (second study season) to better understand the effects of the Project.

Table 2. Study Plan Revisions: PSP to RSP

Study No.	Study Title	Revised Study Goal	Status and Notable Modifications
1.0	Sedimentation	Determine the effect, if any, that Project operations have on stream morphology and sediment transport in the Loup River bypass reach and in the lower Platte River because stream morphology relates directly to habitat, and habitat may determine species abundance and success. In addition, the study will compare the availability of sandbar nesting habitat for interior least terns and piping plovers to their respective populations and will compare the general habitat characteristics of the pallid sturgeon in multiple locations.	<p>The RSP version of Study 1.0 is largely unchanged from the PSP version. Generally, some objectives proposed in the PSP have been moved to activities in the RSP. Notable modifications are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional background information has been included related to the study's relevance to threatened and endangered species. • Activities related to sediment transport indicators were clarified to indicate that they will be evaluated for sub-daily and wet and dry weather cycles. • Evaluation of the relationship between sediment transport parameters and interior least tern and piping plover nesting will include evaluation of productivity measures (to the extent available data allows). • Based on agency consensus reached during the May 27-28, 2009, Study Plan Meeting, Objective 5 as presented in the PSP has been eliminated from the RSP. • Based on agency consensus reached during the May 27-28, 2009, Study Plan Meeting, Objective 7 as presented in the PSP has been removed from Study 1.0, Sedimentation, and incorporated into Study 12.0, Ice Jam Flooding on the Loup River, in the RSP.

Study No.	Study Title	Revised Study Goal	Status and Notable Modifications
2.0	Hydrocycling	Determine if Project hydrocycling operations benefit or adversely affect the habitat used by interior least terns, piping plovers, and pallid sturgeon in the lower Platte River.	<p>The RSP version of Study 2.0 is largely unchanged from the PSP version. Generally, some objectives proposed in the PSP have been moved to activities in the RSP. Notable modifications are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional background information has been included related to the study's relevance to threatened and endangered species. • Objective 3 (Objective 2 in the RSP) and Objective 5 (Objective 4 in the RSP) have been streamlined to focus on the objective and to not call out associated activities. • Specific dates/benchmark events have been established for each species for the nest inundation analysis associated with Objective 3 (Objective 2 in the RSP).
3.0	Water Temperature in the Platte River	NA	Based on agency consensus, reached during the April 21, 2009, Study Plan Meeting, this study has been determined unnecessary for Project relicensing and is not included in the RSP.
4.0	Water Temperature in the Loup River Bypass Reach	Determine if Project operations (flow diversion) materially affect water temperature in the Loup River bypass reach with particular emphasis between the Diversion Weir and the confluence of Beaver Creek with the Loup River.	<p>The RSP version of Study 4.0 is largely unchanged from the PSP version. Generally, some objectives proposed in the PSP have been moved to activities in the RSP. Notable modifications are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relative humidity and solar radiation have been added as analysis parameters associated with Objective 5 (Objective 1 in the RSP) • Objective 1 in the RSP includes a new activity that was not included in the PSP: Obtain a short-term sampling of water temperature data in the Loup River bypass reach near Columbus to determine whether or not temperatures are not significantly higher than in the primary study reach (from the Diversion Weir to Beaver Creek).

Study No.	Study Title	Revised Study Goal	Status and Notable Modifications
5.0	Flow Depletion and Flow Diversion	Determine if Project operations result in a flow depletion on the lower Platte River and to what extent the magnitude, frequency, duration, and timing of flows affect the Loup River bypass reach.	<p>The RSP version of Study 5.0 is largely unchanged from the PSP version. Generally, some objectives proposed in the PSP have been moved to activities in the RSP. Notable modifications are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional background information has been included related to the study's relevance to threatened and endangered species. • Interior least tern and piping plover productivity analysis has been added to the activities associated with Objective 6 (Objective 4 in the RSP). • The geographic scope of aerial photo interpretation has been modified for Objective 6 (Objective 4 in the RSP). • A new objective (Objective 5) has been added in the RSP: To determine Project effects, if any, of consumptive use on fisheries and habitat on the lower Platte River downstream of the Tailrace Canal. • Activities associated with Objective 7 (Objective 6 in the RSP) have been expanded to include seasonal analysis of Loup River fishery dynamics above and below the Diversion Weir.
6.0	Fish Sampling	NA	Based on agency consensus, reached during the May 27-28, 2009, Study Plan Meeting, this study has been determined unnecessary for Project relicensing and is not included in the RSP.
7.0	Fish Passage	Determine if a useable pathway exists for fish movement upstream and downstream of the Diversion Weir.	<p>The RSP version of Study 7.0 is largely unchanged from the PSP version. Generally, some objectives proposed in the PSP have been moved to activities in the RSP. Notable modifications are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish passage evaluation has been expanded to include all migratory fish species that may be affected by the Diversion Weir. • A new activity has been added under Objective 7 (Objective 2 in the RSP): Calculate the percent of time during the migration season that the Diversion Weir is a barrier to upstream fish movement.

Study No.	Study Title	Revised Study Goal	Status and Notable Modifications
8.0	Recreation Use	Determine the public awareness, usage, perception, and demand of the Project's existing recreation facilities (including fisheries), to determine if potential improvements are needed, and to develop a Recreation Management Plan to address existing and future recreation needs.	<p>Based on agency consensus reached at the May 11, 2009, Recreation, Land Use, and Aesthetics Study Plan Meeting, Study 8.0, Recreation User Survey, as presented in the PSP has been combined with Study 9.0, Creel Survey, as presented in the PSP and is titled Study 8.0, Recreation Use, in the RSP. Notable modifications are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The associated creel survey no longer includes an instantaneous count. Instead, anglers will be counted as they are encountered with no qualification for specified time intervals. • As detailed in Study 8.0, Recreation User Survey, in the PSP, the recreation user survey was to be conducted on two weekdays and two weekend days per month. In order to comply with NGPC's standard creel survey schedule/frequency, the RSP study, which includes both the recreation use and creel surveys, will be conducted on six weekdays and four weekend days per month (the same schedule/frequency proposed for Study 9.0, Creel Survey, in the PSP). • As detailed in Study 9.0, Creel Survey, in the PSP, the creel survey was to be conducted from May through September 2010. In order to maintain consistency with the schedule/frequency proposed in Study 8.0, Recreation User Survey, in the PSP, the revised recreation use study will involve recreation use and creel surveys from May 1 through October 31, 2010. • Attendees of the May 11, 2009, Recreation, Land Use, and Aesthetics Study Plan Meeting agreed that the survey of Nebraska Off Highway Vehicle Association (NOHVA) members, as described in Study 8.0, Recreation User Survey, in the PSP, was not necessary and that it may skew survey results by targeting a group of recreation users with similar interests. As a result, the NOHVA survey is no longer proposed in the RSP. • Multiple agencies felt that the goal of 300 in-person surveys (detailed in Study 8.0, Recreation User Survey, in the PSP as the number of surveys necessary to establish statistical significance) was too low. As a result, no goal is specified in the RSP. It is the District's intent to survey as many people as possible during the survey periods, and it is anticipated that greater than 300 in-person surveys will be conducted.

Study No.	Study Title	Revised Study Goal	Status and Notable Modifications
9.0	Creel Survey	NA	Based on agency consensus reached during the May 11, 2009, Recreation, Land Use, and Aesthetics Study Plan Meeting, this study was combined with Study 8.0, Recreation User Survey, as presented in the PSP and is now titled Study 8.0, Recreation Use, in the RSP.
10.0	Land Use Inventory	Determine specific land uses of Project lands and adjacent properties to identify potential conflicts and/or opportunities relating to Project operations, public access, recreation, aesthetics, and environmental resource protection.	The RSP version of Study 10.0 is largely unchanged from the PSP version. Notable modifications are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new objective (Objective 6) has been added in the RSP: To identify potential opportunities to improve aesthetics on Project lands and recreation areas. • An attachment (Attachment A) has been added to provide land use and zoning maps in the RSP.
11.0	Section 106 Compliance	Achieve NHPA Section 106 compliance through a programmatic, ongoing consultation relationship between the District and the Nebraska SHPO.	Because the Nebraska SHPO was in agreement with the goals, objectives, and activities in Study 11.0, Section 106 Compliance, as presented in the RSP, the RSP version of Study 11.0 is largely unchanged from the PSP version. One notable modification is that Interested Parties have been defined in response to a request from FERC.

Study No.	Study Title	Revised Study Goal	Status and Notable Modifications
12.0	Ice Jam Flooding on the Loup River	Determine if the operation of the Loup Power Canal has a material effect on the formation of ice jams or a material effect on the severity of flooding caused by ice jams in the Loup River bypass reach.	<p>The RSP version of Study 12.0 is largely unchanged from the PSP version. Generally, some objectives proposed in the PSP have been moved to activities in the RSP. Notable modifications are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 2 (Objective 1 in the RSP) has been expanded: To characterize the available information and its relevance to performing a quantitative or qualitative analysis. • Objective 1 in the RSP includes a new activity that was not included in the PSP: Coordinate with USACE (or other) regarding the suitability of the available data for performing a quantitative or qualitative analysis. • Objective 1 in the RSP includes another new activity that was not included in the PSP: Research existing literature on stream morphology in the Loup River bypass reach and review literature on the link between sediment and frazil ice transport and incorporate the results of Study 1.0, Sedimentation, in that analysis. • Objective 3 (Objective 2 in the RSP) includes a new activity that was not included in the PSP: Incorporate the results of Study 1.0, Sedimentation, relative to river morphology changes to assess potential effects, if any, on ice and water transport.

In accordance with the regulations of the ILP and as described in the FERC-approved Process Plan and Schedule for the Project, the RSP is being filed electronically with FERC and appropriate agencies and stakeholders. In addition, other agencies and stakeholders known to have an interest in the proceeding have been notified via email of the availability of the RSP on the District's relicensing website at <http://www.loup.com/relicense>.

7. STUDY PLAN DETERMINATION

FERC will issue its Study Plan Determination by August 26, 2009, within 30 days from filing of the RSP (18 CFR 5.13(c)). If no notice of study dispute is filed in accordance with 18 CFR 5.14 within 20 days of the Study Plan Determination, the RSP as approved in the Study Plan Determination shall be deemed to be approved and the District will proceed with the approved studies. If any portions of the Study Plan Determination are disputed by Federal agencies with authority under Section 4(e) or Section 18 of the Federal Power Act (16 United States Code [USC] 797(e); 16 USC 811) or agencies or Native American tribes with authority to issue Section 401 water quality certification for the Project (42 USC 1341), a formal dispute resolution process will be initiated, as provided for under 18 CFR 5.14, and a final study dispute determination (constituting amendment of the approved study plan) will be issued for the disputed study components.

8. PROGRESS REPORTS AND STUDY REPORTS

The District will prepare progress reports on a quarterly basis (in December 2009, March 2010, and June 2010). These reports will be filed with FERC and distributed to relicensing participants. One of the main purposes of the quarterly reports will be to inform and obtain input from relicensing participants regarding potential resource conflicts and potential mitigation opportunities as studies are conducted. Documentation of study results will be provided to relicensing participants upon request in accordance with 18 CFR 5.15(b).

In addition, the District will prepare a consolidated Initial Study Report for Studies 1.0 through 12.0 that describes progress and results (as appropriate) for each study. In accordance with the District's Process Plan and Schedule, the Initial Study Report will be available in August 2010, and a study meeting will be held within 15 days, per 18 CFR 5.15(c)(2). An Updated Study Report will be available in August 2011 to provide information on progress and results for second season studies (as needed).