



# LOUP POWER DISTRICT

"SERVING YOU ELECTRICALLY"

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*Via Electronic Filing*

February 23, 2010

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  
Docket P-1256-029  
Quarterly Progress Report #2

Dear Secretary Bose:

In accordance with 18 CFR §5.15, Loup River Public Power District (Loup Power District or District) herein electronically files Quarterly Progress Report #2 for the Loup River Hydroelectric Project. This report describes the District's progress and activities related to conducting the relicensing studies identified in the Revised Study Plan (RSP) filed July 27, 2009 as amended by the Commission's Study Plan Determination (SPD) issued August 26, 2009. 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.

Electronic copies of this report are available on the District's relicensing website: [www.loup.com/relicense](http://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 all progress reports 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 on August 26, 2010 and conduct a meeting to discuss initial study results on September 9, 2010. Additionally, the District will provide a quarterly progress report for all studies in May 2010.

If you have any questions regarding Quarterly Progress Report #2 or any information provided by the District, please contact me at (402) 564-3171 ext. 268.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal D. Suess  
President/CEO  
Loup Power District

Attachments: Distribution List  
Quarterly Progress Report #2

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# Progress Report

Project:	<b>Loup River Public Power District Loup River Hydroelectric Project FERC Project No. 1256</b>	FERC Docket No:	<b>P-1256-029</b>
Date:	February 22, 2009	For Period:	December 1, 2009 – February 22, 2009
<b>Quarterly Progress Report #2</b>			

## STUDY REPORTS:

Loup River Public Power District will submit the Initial Study Report on August 26, 2010 and has scheduled the Initial Study Results meeting as follows:

**Date:** Thursday, September 9, 2010  
**Location:** New World Inn  
 265 33rd Ave  
 Columbus, Nebraska  
**Time:** To be determined

The following Studies identified in the Revised Study Plan require data collection after the date for submittal of the Initial Study Report:

- Study 2.0 – Hydrocycling
- Study 4.0 – Water Temperature in the Loup River Bypass Reach
- Study 5.0 – Flow Depletion and Flow Diversion
- Study 8.0 – Recreation Use
- Study 12.0 – Ice Jam Flooding on the Loup River

Therefore, the District will provide an update to the Initial Study Report after completion of these studies on January 6, 2011 and will hold a second Study Results meeting on January 21, 2011.

The following summarizes the report and meeting dates for the nine studies currently underway:

<b>Initial Study Report – August 26, 2010 Study Results Meeting – September 9, 2010</b>	<b>Initial Study Report – January 6, 2011 Study Results Meeting – January 21, 2011</b>
Study 1.0 – Sedimentation	Study 2.0 – Hydrocycling
Study 7.0 – Fish Passage	Study 4.0 – Water Temperature in the Loup River Bypass Reach
Study 10.0 – Land Use Inventory	Study 5.0 – Flow Depletion and Flow Diversion
Study 11.0 – Section 106 Compliance	Study 8.0 – Recreation Use
A progress report will be included in this Study Report for the studies that are still on-going.	Study 12.0 – Ice Jam Flooding on the Loup River



**Loup River Public Power District  
Loup River Hydroelectric Project  
FERC Project No. 1256  
Quarterly Progress Report #2**

## **STUDY PROGRESS:**

### **Study 1.0 – Sedimentation**

#### *Study Goal:*

The goal of the sedimentation study is to 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 (*Sterna antillarum*) and piping plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) to their respective populations and will compare the general habitat characteristics of the pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) in multiple locations.

#### *Activities to Date:*

- Developed the following information for the Platte River gages at Louisville, Leshara, Ashland, North Bend and Duncan and the Loup River gage at Genoa:
  - Draft sediment discharge capacity rating curves for current stage discharge rating curve
  - Sensitivity analysis of sediment discharge rating curve parameters
  - Draft annual collective sediment discharge curves
  - Draft annual effective discharge
  - Draft annual total bed material transport
- Began update of Missouri River Basin Commission sediment budget based on District's dredge records (per the Study Plan Determination).
- Met with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) on January 5, 2010 to identify locations for additional cross-sections.
- Began coordinating survey of cross-sectional data to be conducted in spring 2010.
- Received 2009 interior least tern and piping plover survey data (nesting and occurrence) from NGPC.

*Report Date: August 26, 2010*

*Meeting Date: September 9, 2010*



**Loup River Public Power District  
Loup River Hydroelectric Project  
FERC Project No. 1256  
Quarterly Progress Report #2**

## **Study 2.0 – Hydrocycling**

### *Study Goal:*

The goal of the hydrocycling study is to 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. The physical effects of hydrocycling will be quantified and compared to alternative conditions.

### *Activities to Date:*

- Collected daily and subdaily data for the following gages:
  - Platte River gages at Louisville, Leshara, Ashland, North Bend and Duncan
  - Loup River gages at Loup River Power Canal, Genoa, and Columbus
  - Beaver Creek gage at Genoa
  - Power Canal return flow at the 8th Street gage.
- Began developing gage record database for gage analyses.
- Began travel time evaluation based on gage data.
- Began identification of wet, dry, and normal flow years.
- Met with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) on January 5, 2010 to identify locations for additional cross-sections for evaluation with the 1-D hydraulic model.
- Received 2009 interior least tern and piping plover survey data (nesting and occurrence) from NGPC.
- Began coordinating survey of cross-sectional data to be conducted in spring 2010.

*Report Date: January 6, 2011*

*Meeting Date: January 21, 2011*

## **Study 3.0 – Deleted per Revised Study Plan and Study Plan Determination**

## **Study 4.0 – Water Temperature in the Loup River Bypass Reach**

### *Study Goal:*

The goal of the study of water temperature in the Loup River bypass reach is to 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.

### *Activities to Date:*

- Contracted with USGS for installation of temperature sensors in the Loup River at the Diversion Weir, and the Loup River near Genoa (USGS Gage 06793000).
- Installation of temperature sensors has not been scheduled by USGS but is anticipated to occur in late April/early May.
- Obtained Stowaway Tidbit temperature loggers for short-term data collection in August per the Study Plan.

*Report Date: January 6, 2011*

*Meeting Date: January 21, 2011*



**Loup River Public Power District  
Loup River Hydroelectric Project  
FERC Project No. 1256  
Quarterly Progress Report #2**

## **Study 5.0 – Flow Depletion and Flow Diversion**

### *Study Goal:*

The goals of the flow depletion and flow diversion study are to 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. The results will be used to determine if the Project operations relative to flow depletion and flow diversion adversely affect the habitat used by interior least tern and piping plover populations, the fisheries, and the riverine habitat in the Loup River bypass reach and the lower Platte River compared to alternative conditions.

### *Activities to Date:*

- Collected daily and subdaily data for the following gages:
  - Platte River gages at Louisville, Leshara, Ashland, North Bend and Duncan
  - Loup River gages at Loup River Power Canal, Genoa, and Columbus
  - Beaver Creek gage at Genoa
  - Power Canal return flow at the 8th Street gage.
- Began developing flow duration curves.
- Began developing gage record database for gage analyses.
- Began travel time evaluation based on gage data.
- Began identification of wet, dry, and normal flow years.
- Met with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) on January 5, 2010 to identify locations for additional cross-sections for evaluation with the 1-D hydraulic model.
- Received 2009 interior least tern and piping plover survey data (nesting and occurrence) from NGPC.
- Began coordinating survey of cross-sectional data to be conducted in spring 2010.

*Report Date: January 6, 2011*

*Meeting Date: January 21, 2011*

## **Study 6.0 – Deleted per Revised Study Plan and Study Plan Determination**

## **Study 7.0 – Fish Passage**

### *Study Goal:*

The goal of the fish passage study is to determine if a useable pathway exists for fish movement upstream and downstream of the Diversion Weir.

### *Activities to Date:*

- Continued general data collection activities.
- Began coordinating survey of cross-sectional data to be conducted in spring 2010.

*Report Date: August 26, 2010*

*Meeting Date: September 9, 2010*



**Loup River Public Power District  
Loup River Hydroelectric Project  
FERC Project No. 1256  
Quarterly Progress Report #2**

## **Study 8.0 – Recreation Use**

### *Study Goal:*

The goal of the recreation use study is 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.

### *Activities to Date:*

- Held conference call on January 14, 2010 with National Park Service (NPS), NGPC, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding fine tuning of Recreation Use Survey methodologies along the Loup Power Canal and development of Recreation Use Survey methodologies along the Loup River bypass reach.
- Updated survey questionnaires in accordance with FERC's Study Plan Determination.
- Held meeting with NGPC on February 11, 2010 to finalize Recreation Use Survey methodologies along the Loup Power Canal, to provide creel clerk training, and to refine survey methodologies along the Loup River bypass reach.
- Drafted Bypass Reach Recreation Use Survey Study Plan and submitted for NPS, NGPC, and FERC review.

*Interim General Recreation Use Report – on or before September 15, 2010*

*Interim Telephone Survey Report – on or before October 15, 2010*

*Report Date: January 6, 2011*

*Meeting Date: January 21, 2011*

## **Study 9.0 – Deleted per Revised Study Plan and Study Plan Determination**

## **Study 10.0 – Land Use Inventory**

### *Study Goal:*

The goal of the land use inventory is to 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.

### *Activities to Date:*

- Performed aerial photography land use interpretation and mapping.
- Initiated potential land use conflict analysis.
- Began development of draft Study Report.

*Report Date: August 26, 2010*

*Meeting Date: September 9, 2010*



**Loup River Public Power District  
Loup River Hydroelectric Project  
FERC Project No. 1256  
Quarterly Progress Report #2**

## **Study 11.0 – Section 106 Compliance**

### *Study Goal:*

The goal of the Section 106 compliance study is to achieve NHPA Section 106 compliance through a programmatic, ongoing consultation relationship between the District and the Nebraska SHPO.

### *Activities to Date:*

- Submitted Completed Phase IA Archaeological Overview Report and concurrence from the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to FERC.
- Coordinated with local archaeologist to begin field work planning of those areas defined in the Phase IA Archaeological Overview Report.
- Attempted subsurface work on two occasions. Archaeological fieldwork is on hold pending improvement in the weather.
- Summarized written correspondence with Tribes in a memorandum and outlined plans for continued communication with Tribes through future work technical reports; reviewed status of Tribal program with FERC cultural resources contact.
- Prepared sections of narrative and maps for Historic District Inventory and Evaluation in the format determined in coordination with the Nebraska SHPO.

*Report Date: August 26, 2010*

*Meeting Date: September 9, 2010*

## **Study 12.0 – Ice Jam Flooding on the Loup River**

### *Study Goal:*

The goal of the study of ice jam flooding on the Loup River is to evaluate the impact of project operations on hydrology, sediment transport, and channel hydraulics, and the combined impact on ice processes. The study would also develop an ice jam and/or breakup predictive model (limited to examination of project effects), as well as identify operational or structural measures to mitigate or minimize project effects on ice jam formation and subsequent flooding, should it be demonstrated that operation of the project materially impacts ice jam formation on the Loup and Platte rivers.

### *Activities to Date:*

- Worked with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to develop a refined scope for the Ice Study based on the FERC Study Plan Determination.
- Provided USACE with information on other studies to be conducted per the Study Plan Determination.
- Worked with USACE to identify areas of overlap and duplication of work between the original USACE proposal to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and information to be used for other relicensing studies.
- Developed list of required hydrologic, hydraulic and sediment transport information to be provided by HDR Engineering to the USACE for conducting the Ice Jam Flooding study.

*Report Date: January 6, 2011*

*Meeting Date: January 21, 2011*