

CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER & IRRIG. DISTRICT

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January 7, 1999

Federal Communications Commission
1270 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245

Re: **RM9405** Petition to Create a Public Service Pool for Spectrum Below 800 MHz

Gentlemen:

The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (Central) is a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska which provides the following benefits to the area:

- 1) 104 MW of hydro generation
- 2) Irrigation service to more than 112,000 acres
- 3) Groundwater recharge to over 310,000 acres
- 4) Recreation at 26 lakes
- 5) Wildlife habitat

Central operates Lake McConaughy, which is the largest reservoir in Nebraska. We are licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. One of our license requirements requires the release of water for endangered species in the Platte valley. VHF radio is used extensively in monitoring and controlling those water flows. VHF communication is also very important for simultaneous communication to a large number of personnel over a large geographic area. Additionally, this VHF voice communication and water flow monitoring equipment is critical to public safety as an essential part of the communications chain in the Emergency Action Plans required for Central's dams and reservoirs should there be a failure or other imminent danger.

The creation of a specific Public Service Pool would minimize the risk of interference on these systems and give us more assurance that frequencies would be available for future expansion.

Please give this petition careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Don Kraus, P.E.
General Manager