



**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

SUBJECT: J-2 Return Reservoir Alternatives Screening Analysis
REQUEST DATE: April 28, 2009
CLOSING DATE: May 29, 2009
POINT OF CONTACT: **Technical Point of Contact:**
Jason Farnsworth
Headwaters Corporation
821 Garfield Street
Holdrege, Nebraska 68949
farnsworthj@headwaterscorp.com
Administrative Point of Contact:
Sabre Duren
durens@headwaterscorp.com

I. OVERVIEW

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (**Program**) was initiated on January 1, 2007 between Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado and the Department of the Interior to address endangered species issues in the central and lower Platte River basin. The species considered in the Program, referred to as “target species”, are the whooping crane, piping plover, interior least tern, and pallid sturgeon.

A Governance Committee (**GC**) has been established that reviews, directs, and provides oversight for activities undertaken during the Program. The GC is comprised of one representative from each of the three states, three water user representatives, two representatives from environmental groups, and two members representing federal agencies. The GC has named Dr. Jerry Kenny to serve as the Program Executive Director (**ED**). Dr. Kenny has assembled a Program Staff located in Nebraska and Colorado that is responsible for assisting in carrying out the various Program-related activities. The Program has also established a Water Advisory Committee (**WAC**) to provide assistance and advice on water related matters, as directed, to the GC. The ED Office will coordinate between the contractor and the WAC and/or a working subgroup on the WAC as needed on this project.

The GC submits this Request for Proposals (**RFP**) to solicit proposals from contractors to conduct an Alternatives Screening Analysis for Program use.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The J-2 Return Reservoir would be a new reregulation reservoir located either in the area adjacent the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (**CNPPID**) J-2 Return Canal below the J-2 hydroplant, adjacent to the first several miles of the Phelps County Canal, or in the south channel of the Platte River upstream of the Overton Bridge. The reservoir would be filled by diverting water from the J-2 Return or Phelps County canals, or if constructed in the south



45 channel of the river, would store flows from the J-2 Return. For the purposes of this
46 investigation, the structure will be referred to as the J-2 Return Reservoir.

47
48 A Program sub-committee is currently drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (**MOU**) which
49 will detail agreements between CNPPID and the Program regarding uses and responsibilities.
50 The MOU is expected be in place by mid-2009. Additional project partners may be identified
51 during completion of the Alternatives Screening Analysis.

52
53 The Program is investigating the potential use of this reservoir for two separate but related
54 program purposes: (a) pulse flows and (b) to reduce shortages to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
55 (**FWS**) target flows (target flows). This Alternatives Screening Analysis is critical for
56 constructing this re-regulation reservoir for the Program purposes described below and to
57 determine if potential fatal flaws exist. The Alternatives Screening Analysis will also evaluate
58 the reservoir for storage of new Program water. A full feasibility analysis for the reservoir will
59 not be initiated until this work is complete and is dependent on the findings of this work. The
60 project schedule is aggressive and will need to be followed closely by the contractor as timely
61 implementation of water projects is important in order to meet the Program’s water-related
62 milestones.

63
64 **Pulse Flows**

65 Flows of varying magnitude, duration, frequency and rate of change affect the morphology and
66 habitat quality of the river. A flow target of 5,000 to 8,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the
67 habitat reach for a duration of three days at Overton on an annual or near-annual basis has been
68 identified for testing hypotheses under the Adaptive Management component of the Program.
69 These high, short duration flows are referred to as “pulse flows”.

70
71 A Water Management Study (**WMS**) was completed in 2008, which evaluated the feasibility of
72 delivering: (1) 5,000 cfs of Program water for three days to the upper end of the associated
73 habitat (at the Overton gage) for pulse flows when other demands on water are low (normally
74 September 1 – May 31) and (2) quantities of Program water that are likely to yield 800 cfs at the
75 habitat during the irrigation season. Conclusions from this study found storage and re-regulation
76 near the associated habitat is needed to help achieve the pulse flow objectives based on upstream
77 capacity constraints in the Platte River and the conveyance and storage capacity in the Nebraska
78 Public Power District (**NPPD**) and CNPPID systems. A J-2 Return Reservoir concept was one
79 of the water storage projects recommended for further investigation.

80
81 **Reducing Shortage to FWS Target Flows**

82 The FWS has developed recommendations for instream flows to protect endangered species and
83 other wildlife. The water goals of the Program include reducing shortages to the FWS target
84 flows by an average of 130,000 to 150,000 acre-feet per year (ac-ft/yr) by the end of 2019. A
85 portion of the instream flow objectives will be met through an Environmental Account (**EA**) in
86 Lake McConaughy, the Pathfinder Modification Project, and the Tamarack Plan. The remaining
87 instream flow objectives will be met through incentive-based water conservation and water
88 supply activities. A Reconnaissance-Level Water Action Plan (**WAP**) was prepared to address



89 the water conservation/supply component of the Program, and identified 13 projects (in addition
90 to the three specific projects mentioned above) that could reduce shortages to target flows by
91 130,000 to 150,000 ac-ft/yr on average¹.

92

93 CNPPID re-regulating reservoir project(s) fall under one of the 13 WAP projects. A J-2 Return
94 Reservoir was not specifically mentioned in the WAP, but the WAC has since concluded that it
95 would fall under the “CNPPID Re-Regulating Reservoir” project concept.

96

97 **III. SCOPE OF WORK**

98 The selected contractor will be responsible for conducting a J-2 Return Reservoir Alternatives
99 Screening Analysis for the Program. The contractor will work with Program participants, the
100 ED, and Program staff during all phases of analysis to ensure that project specifications are met.
101 At the end of this work, a summary report will be provided with results of the alternatives
102 screening analysis.

103

104 The following summary presents preliminary scope tasks for the J-2 Return Reservoir
105 Alternatives Screening Analysis:

106

107 **1) Project Management and Meetings**

108 Coordination of work and solicitation of input from Program staff and participants
109 throughout the project. Meetings will be conducted as necessary for the coordination of
110 project activities and to keep the WAC and GC informed of project progress. Informal
111 meetings with Program staff and participants will also likely be necessary.

112

113 **2) Project Scoping and Kickoff**

114 Contractor meeting with Program staff (and others as necessary) to review and refine scope
115 of work and project timeline followed by meeting with the WAC (or smaller workgroup) to
116 review scope and solicit ideas and input.

117

118 **3) Existing Information Collection and Review**

119 Collection and review of previous investigations, reconnaissance-level reservoir studies and
120 readily available topographic, wetland, transportation, utility, landowner, and other
121 appropriate data for project area.

122

123 **4) Project Operations Assessment**

124 The WAC, with support from Program staff and CNPPID will develop preliminary project
125 operational scenario(s) to meet Program goals and objectives. The consultant will participate
126 in operational scenario discussions and translate those scenario(s) into facility design and

¹ Boyle Engineering Corporation in association with BBC Research and Anderson Consulting Engineers. 2000. Reconnaissance-Level Water Action Plan. Prepared for the Governance Committee of the Cooperative Agreement for Platte River Research.



127 scoring/crediting ranges (water supply source, fill rates, fill timing, release rates, release
128 timing, etc.) for use in alternatives screening.

129

130 **5) Alternatives Screening & Fatal Flaw Identification**

131 i) J-2 Return Reservoir– Conceptual level design and screening of reservoir alternatives
132 (and associated inlet/outlet canals as necessary) capable of achieving releases within
133 the identified operational range. The alternatives are to be supplied with water via the
134 CNPPID canal system and be located downstream of the J-2 hydropower plant south
135 of the river, the first several miles of the Phelps County Canal, or in the South
136 Channel of the Platte River itself. The analysis should identify storage, inflow and
137 outflow capacities, ability to mitigate hydrocycling-related river flow fluctuation,
138 wetland and cultural resources impacts, transportation and utility impacts, number of
139 affected landowners, order of magnitude cost and other potential constraints and
140 opportunities for each alternative.

141 ii) Alternatives Screening Presentation – Presentation of screening analysis results to
142 WAPS (or smaller subgroup) and selection of alternative to carry forward for full
143 feasibility analysis.

144

145 **6) Alternatives Screening Summary Report**

146 Prepare and provide a summary report to the Program by December 18, 2009. The report will
147 summarize the alternatives screening process and results and will identify the alternative that
148 will be recommended for full feasibility analysis.

149

150 **7) Full Feasibility Scoping**

151 Provide a scope of work and costs for the next phase of the J-2 Return Reservoir Feasibility
152 analysis. Tasks should include survey and mapping, geotechnical investigation, feasibility-
153 level design and cost estimating, permitting and environmental mitigation, cultural resources
154 investigation, presentation of feasibility results, and a full feasibility report. This task may be
155 revised or eliminated based on previous task findings.

156

157 **IV. PROJECT BUDGET**

158 The Governance Committee has budgeted \$100,000 for the J-2 Return Reservoir Alternatives
159 Screening Analysis study in 2009. Please note that this is an estimated budget provided solely for
160 informational purposes. Contractors who submit a proposal are **NOT** to indicate or display any
161 fee related data whatsoever.

162

163 **V. CONTRACT TERMS**

164 The selected contractor will be retained by:

165

166 Nebraska Community Foundation

167 PO Box 83107

168 Lincoln, NE 68501

169



170 The selected firm will negotiate with the ED Office to establish a fair and equitable
171 contract. If an agreement cannot be reached, a second firm will be invited to negotiate and
172 so on, until an agreement is reached. Contracted services will be performed on a percent
173 complete basis. Under the final contract, written Notice to Proceed from the Executive
174 Director will be required before work begins. All work will be contingent on availability of
175 Program funding. If there are no fatal flaws identified in Phase I, this contract may be
176 extended into a Phase II study.

177
178 **VI. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**
179 All interested parties having experience providing the services listed in this RFP are requested to
180 submit a proposal.

181
182 **Instructions for Submitting Proposals**
183 *One electronic copy of your proposal must be submitted in PDF format to the Administrative*
184 *Point of Contact, Sabre Duren at durens@headwaterscorp.com no later than 5:00 p.m. Central*
185 *Time on May 29, 2009. Maximum allowable PDF size is 8MB. A proposal is late if received any*
186 *time after 5:00 p.m. Central Time and will not be eligible for consideration.*

187
188 **Questions regarding the information contained in this RFP should be submitted by e-mail**
189 **only to the Technical Point of Contact, Jason Farnsworth at**
190 **farnsworthj@headwaterscorp.com. A list of compiled contractor questions and responses**
191 **will be maintained on the Program web site (www.PlatteRiverProgram.org) in the same**
192 **location as this RFP solicitation.** A pre-proposal meeting of interested parties will be held on
193 Monday, May 18, 2009 at the Headwaters Corporation/Program conference center (Suite 5,
194 Central Business Station Center, 3710 Central Avenue) in Kearney, Nebraska from 1:30-2:30
195 p.m. Central Time to address questions associated with this RFP. A conference call line will be
196 available; please visit the Program web site for additional conference line details.

197
198 **Proposal Content**
199 Proposals should respond to the following general topics:

- 200
- 201 **1) Executive Summary** that presents a company overview and condenses and highlights the
202 contents of the proposal in such a way as to provide a broad understanding of the contractor’s
203 qualifications and technical proposal.
 - 204
 - 205 **2) Project understanding** that demonstrates the contractor’s understanding of the J-2 Return
206 Reservoir Alternatives Screening Analysis project needs, including a description of the
207 project requirements and identification of potential critical issues that need to be addressed
208 and resolved.
 - 209
 - 210 **3) Project approach** that describes how the contractor would organize and manage the project.
211 The approach describes team organization and responsibilities, provides project team
212 resumes (including subcontractors), and documents tasks necessary to accomplish the scope
213 of work outlined in this RFP.



- 214
215 4) **Relevant experience** provides details about the contractor’s relevant previous experience
216 within the past five years, highlighting team members’ roles. Descriptions should include the
217 name, location, and brief summary of the projects; name, address, and phone number of the
218 contracting officer for the client; and identify involvement/role of the proposed team in those
219 projects.
220
- 221 5) **Schedule** for completing the tasks identified in the technical approach. This project is time-
222 sensitive and needs to be completed in 2009. If no fatal flaws are identified, there is potential
223 for a next phase Full Feasibility Analysis. Proposed schedules should be as aggressive as
224 possible without compromising the ability to produce a quality product. Include potential
225 constraints or challenges based on the tasks and the schedule described above.
226
- 227 6) **Conflict of interest statement** addressing whether or not any potential conflict of interest
228 exists between this project and other past or on-going projects, including any projects
229 currently being conducted for the Program.
230
- 231 7) **Description of insurance** shall be provided with the proposal. Proof of insurance will be
232 required before a contract is issued. Minimum insurance requirements will include
233 \$1,000,000 general liability per occurrence.
234

235 **Criteria for Evaluating Proposals**

236 The GC will appoint a Proposal Selection Panel that will evaluate all proposals and select a
237 contractor based on the following principal considerations:

- 238
- 239 1. The prospective contractor’s understanding of and approach to completing this project as
240 demonstrated by the content of the understanding and approach sections of their proposal.
241
 - 242 2. Contractor’s relevant project experience and relevant experience of the proposed project
243 team members.
244
 - 245 3. The clarity and content of the contractor’s proposed tasks and schedule.
246

247 **Award Notice**

248 After completing the evaluation of all proposals and, if deemed necessary, interviews, the
249 Proposal Selection Panel will select a contractor. That firm will negotiate with the ED Office to
250 establish a fair and equitable contract. If an agreement cannot be reached, a second firm will be
251 invited to negotiate and so on. If the Program is unable to negotiate a mutually satisfactory
252 contract with a contractor, it may, at its sole discretion, cancel and reissue a new RFP.
253

254 **Program Perspective**

255 The GC of the Program has the sole discretion and reserves the right to reject any and all
256 proposals received in response to this RFP and to cancel this solicitation if it is deemed in the
257 best interest of the Program to do so. Issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment



258 by the Program to award a contract, or to pay contractor's costs incurred either in the preparation
259 of a response to his RFP or during negotiations, if any, of a contract for services. The Program
260 also reserves the right to make amendments to this RFP by giving written notice to contractors,
261 and to request clarification, supplements, and additions to the information provided by a
262 contractor.

263
264 By submitting a proposal in response to his solicitation, contractors understand and agree that
265 any selection of a contractor or any decision to reject any or all responses or to establish no
266 contracts shall be at the sole discretion of the Program. To the extent authorized by law, the
267 contractor shall indemnify, save, and hold harmless the Nebraska Community Foundation, the
268 states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska, the Department of the Interior, members of the GC,
269 and the ED Office, their employees, employers, and agents, against any and all claims, damages,
270 liability, and court awards including costs, expenses, and attorney fees incurred as a result of any
271 act or omission by the contractor or its employees, agents, subcontractors, or assignees pursuant
272 to the terms of this project. Additionally, by submitting a proposal, contractors agree that they
273 waive any claim for the recovery of any costs or expenses incurred in preparing and submitting a
274 proposal.

275

276 VII. AVAILABLE INFORMATION

277 Several Program-related documents can be accessed from the Program Library section of the
278 Program Website (www.PlatteRiverProgram.org). These documents provide the context for the
279 Program's work in the Platte River Basin and the purpose of implementing pulse flows and
280 reducing shortages to target flows:

- 281 a. Program Document including:
 - 282 o Attachment 3 – Adaptive Management Plan
 - 283 o Attachment 5 – Water Plan (including Reconnaissance-Level Water Action Plan)
- 284 b. Water Management Study Phase I Report
- 285 c. Water Management Study Phase II Report