

# 2017 NPPD/NDEQ ANNUAL REPORT

*A Partnership to Sustain NEBRASKA'S Environment*

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) and the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) sustained their commitment to the goals of the Environmental Partnership Agreement in 2017. The Partnership, now well into its 17<sup>th</sup> year, continues to be a positive force in the life of all Nebraskans. This letter summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the past year.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of the NPPD/NDEQ Environmental Partnership has been the effective communication that has resulted from relationships established between our organizations. A great example of this involves the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund Settlement. In 2017, the NDEQ was designated to administer the Volkswagen Trust settlement funds for the state of Nebraska. The Partnership has facilitated the sharing of ideas and resources in regards to how funds might best be used in two important areas, the irrigation and electric transportation industries. In addition to discussions between NPPD and NDEQ staff, NPPD has brought other Nebraska utility representatives to the table to ensure that the program developed will maximize the use of funds for Nebraskans.

Similarly, the Partnership has enabled collaboration in regards to carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants. Through NPPD, NDEQ has become active in CarbonSafe Nebraska, a group dedicated to examining the feasibility of capturing and sequestering carbon dioxide. There are multiple environmental and energy issues related to carbon capture and sequestration. A joint examination of these issues provides each organization a better understanding, and an opportunity to develop an appreciation of the challenges each organization must address.

In 2017, the Partnership collaborated on the Power Summit for the 12<sup>th</sup> year. Over 75 utility and environmental representatives attended the summit in Lincoln. Presenters covered several topics including the decommissioning of Fort Calhoun Nuclear Plant and the Hastings Utilities' Aquifer Stabilization Recharge project, among others. To close the event, NPPD's John McClure and NDEQ's Jim Macy gave updates on recent developments for their respective organizations. The event continues to be an important product of the Partnership as it provides an opportunity for those in the electric power generating industry and those responsible for regulatory oversight of the industry to exchange information on emerging issues related to power production and environmental policies and regulations.

The Partnership has provided an opportunity for each organization to develop a better understanding of the other. For example, in July, NPPD hosted 11 NDEQ administrative and permitting staff for a tour of the Doniphan Control Center. The tour gave insight into the importance of Doniphan to NPPD's operations and how the facility impacts the operation of regulated generation units.

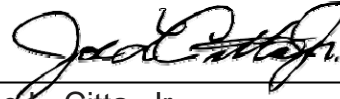
The activities summarized above illustrate the benefits of a Partnership that facilitates cooperation and communication between our two agencies. The Partnership looks forward to continuing this collaboration in 2018 with hopes of building on its success in creating a healthy, sustainable environment for Nebraskans.

This Annual Report is jointly submitted and approved by:



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The NDEQ and NPPD share a desire to continue the development of a sustainable Nebraska, which will leave our descendants with the same high-quality environment to which we have become accustomed.



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