

U.S. Fish & Wildlife announces R-Project related comment period

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is publishing a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register and opening a 60-day public comment period on the revised Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the R-Project Transmission Line (R-Project) in Nebraska. The public comment period began on February 9, 2024, and ends on April 9, 2024.

The R-Project is a proposed 226-mile transmission line that would start at NPPD's Gerald Gentleman Substation near Sutherland; go north to a 345-kV substation located in Thomas County near Thedford; and then extend eastward to another 345-kV substation sited in Holt County, and interconnect with Western Area Power Administration's existing Fort Thompson-to-Grand Island 345-kV line that is located on the eastern border of Holt County, Nebraska.

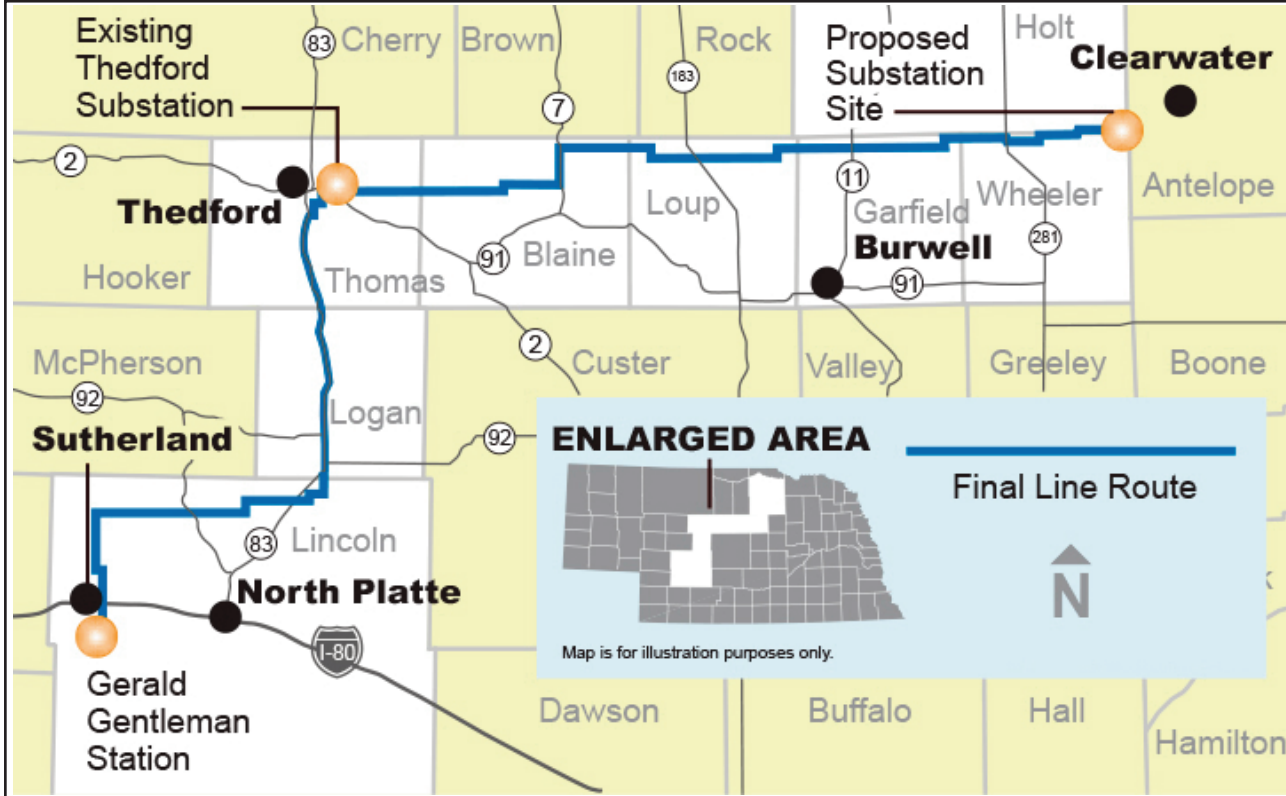
FWS states that the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) is applying for a permit associated with incidental take of

the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*; ABB). NPPD has submitted a new application for a 50-year ITP, including a revised proposed habitat conservation plan (revised HCP) and associated documents. The US Fish and Wildlife Service states that the organization previously issued an ITP for the R-Project and the applicant's earlier HCP to NPPD in 2019. However, that ITP was remanded by a Court. In response to the Court remand, NPPD has prepared the revised HCP as part of the new ITP application in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the FWS now announces the availability of the draft supplemental EIS (draft SEIS) associated with the revised HCP and invites comment from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies.

The Service will host two in-person and one virtual public meeting:

In-Person Meetings:

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Central Standard Time. Prairie Arts Center, 416 North Jeffers Street, North Platte.



COURTESY

Final line route for the proposed R-Project Line.

Thursday, February 29, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Central Standard Time. Mid-Plains Community College, 2520 South "E" Street (West Highway 2), Broken Bow. Virtual meeting: March 7, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to

7:00 p.m. Central Standard Time.

Additional information about the public meetings will be posted on the project website, www.fws.gov/project/r-project-transmission-line, at least one week prior to each

meeting.

To ensure accessibility, a recording of the virtual public meeting will be available online at www.fws.gov/project/r-project-transmission-line and at the following library locations:

North Platte Public Library, 120 W. 4th Street, North Platte, NE 69101

Thomas County Library, 501 Main Street, Thedford, NE 69166 and

Taylor Public Library, 106 William Street, Taylor, NE 68879.

In-Person Meetings

Tuesday, February 27 - 5:00-7:00 p.m. CT
Prairie Arts Center, 416 North Jeffers St.
North Platte

Thursday, February 29 - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. CT
Mid-Plains Community College
West Highway 2, Broken Bow

Virtual Meeting: March 7 - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. CT

Cody is CSC Admissions Ambassador

Lindsay Cody of Halsey, is a Chadron State College Admissions Ambassador who provides tours for prospective students and their families when they visit the CSC campus.

She has learned that endurance and overcoming obstacles are important. "One of the most significant courses I have completed is College Chemistry II. Despite my initial struggle, I was determined to excel in this prerequisite for my major. I opted to retake it during the summer, and my diligence and perseverance paid off as I achieved a high B. This experience has taught me the importance of embracing challenges and using them as opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of the subject matter," Cody said.

In addition to her academic and work commitments, Cody also enjoys spending time with her friends building Lego sets in their dorm rooms, reading, and participating in campus events.

Her professional aspiration is to become a thriving pharmacist and establish her own pharmacy.

"My ultimate goal is to reach a level of success where I can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those around me. My primary objective is to utilize my academic background to establish a program that facilitates internships for students aspiring to join the pharmaceutical industry and provides them with scholarships," she said.



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A related goal she plans to pursue is sponsoring individuals seeking to obtain their pharmacy technician certification.

"The ultimate goal of my proposed initiatives is to create a pipeline of highly skilled and competent workforce for the pharmaceutical industry," she said.

While a CSC student, Cody has completed more than 500 hours of community service.

"One of my favorite events I volunteer for is the annual Easter egg hunt. We hide over 1,000 eggs around the town for the children in the area to find. It is always exciting to brainstorm creative hiding places," she said.

NE 4-H Accepting Nominations For Annual Volunteer Recognition

Nebraska 4-H is now accepting nominations for a new awards program to recognize the outstanding contributions of 4-H volunteers across the state.

The Nebraska 4-H Volunteer Award honors adult and youth volunteers, as well as and multi-generational families, who have provided meaningful contributions to Nebraska 4-H. One Outstanding Adult Volunteer Award and One Emerging Adult Volunteer Award winner will be chosen for each of the state's 10 Nebraska Extension Engagement zones. One statewide winner will be named in the each of the youth volunteer and multi-generational family categories.

"Our 4-H volunteers go above and beyond to serve Nebraska's youth every year," said Jill Goedecken, 4-H Youth Development Extension educator. "We are looking forward to another opportunity to recognize 4-

H volunteers for their contributions to youth in Nebraska."

The nomination period runs through March 15, 2024. Nominations can be submitted by any 4-H member, family, supporter, or Extension staff member. Nominees must fit the award categories and can be a volunteer for any Nebraska 4-H experience. Some examples may include 4-H club leader, project leader, junior leader, county or State

Fair volunteer, special interest volunteer (such as robotics or shooting sports), afterschool club volunteer or 4-H camp volunteer. More information, along with the nomination form, is available online at: <https://4h.unl.edu/volunteer-recognition>.

Winners will be announced virtually in April 2024. A special awards presentation will take place at the 2024 Nebraska State Fair.

51st Annual Mike Sitz Angus Ranch & Joel Johnston Angus Sale

Mike and Debra Sitz, and Joel and Bethany Johnston hosted their 51th Annual Bull Sale at the Burwell Livestock Market, on Monday, February 5, 2024. Following a week of foggy weather, sale day in Burwell continued that same pattern, with icy roads reported to the east, and glimpses of a lighter sky to the west. With the Burwell's morning temperature at 32 degrees, overall, it was a good sale day weather wise.

For over a century the Sitz family has been devoted to building a cowherd centered around functional and problem free Angus genetics, and coming from this cow herd was a very uniform set of bulls, with 92 head of Mike Sitz and Joel Johnston's Coming-Two-Year-Old Angus bulls, averaging \$6,600.

The high selling bull came from the Joel and Bethany Johnston herd. Lot 29, JJA Justified 2169, a son of KG Justified 3025#, and dam, JJA Marshall Queen 7177#, both designated Pathfinders. This deep, eye appealing, high ratioing Justified son, sold to repeat customer Mike and Jane



COURTESY

Gesiriech, Newport, Nebraska, for \$17,000. A calving ease-bull, he had a 72-pound birth weight, with a 119 Wean Ratio and a 114 Yearling Ratio. EPD's on Lot 29 are 13 CED, -1.7 BW, 60 WW, 97 YW, 9 CEM, 30 Milk, and ranking in the top 5% for \$M with an 86. Repeat customer, Bran-

don Bruha, Ord, Nebraska purchased Lot 60, MSAR Century 2071, the second high selling bull for \$13,500. Lot 60 is a son of MSAR Emblazon 2092 - 4079, and the dam is from the Blackbird cow line, and a BAR Ext Traveler 205 # daughter, having 10 calves on record. This bull had EPDs of 7

CED, 1.9 BW, 53 WW, 96 YW, 7 CEM Milk 31, 79 for \$M. He had a birth weight of 85 pounds, a Wean Ratio of 110 and a Yearling Ratio of 115.

Another repeat customer, Hauserman Ran-