STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ORDER GRANTING PETITION VAR-3531 FOR LEAVE TO FILE OR CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR A NEW SURFACE WATER APPROPRIATION WITHIN A MORATORIUM OR STAY AREA

WATER DIVISION 1-B

BACKGROUND

1. On July 14, 2004, the Department of Natural Resources (Department) issued an Order declaring a formal moratorium in the Republican River Basin on the issuance of all new surface water appropriations.

2. On February 7, 2013, Richard Alber (Petitioner) filed petition VAR-3531 in the Department for Leave to File or Consider an Application for a New Surface Water Appropriation within a Moratorium Area (Petition). The draft application and documentation attached to the petition is for a permit to impound approximately 38.0 acre-feet of water from Buffalo Creek in the existing Alber Pond located in the NW¼NE¼ of Section 35, Township 1 North, Range 12 West of the 6th P.M. in Webster County for the purpose of erosion control and water for livestock.

3. Department records of aerial photography dating back to 1993 for this location show this dam and reservoir in existence and impounding water.

4. *Nebraska Revised Statutes* § 46-714(3)(n) allows for new surface water appropriations if the Department grants leave to file an application and subsequently approves a permit for such use.

5. When filing such a petition, a project proponent must offer a clearly stated basis for such request and must offer sufficient good cause shown. *Department of Natural Resources Rules for Surface Water, Title 457 Neb. Admin. Code* Chapter 23 lists six circumstances that may be put forward as justification for granting a petition to apply for a permit to impound water, in conjunction with an examination of good cause shown.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Petitioner has shown good cause in that the impoundment has been providing the benefits of erosion control and water for livestock for many years.

2. Alber Pond existed prior to the formal moratorium.

3. Therefore, petition VAR-3531 should be granted and the Petitioner should be allowed to file an application for a permit to impound water.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Petition VAR-3531 meets the requirement of *Department of Natural Resources Rules of Surface Water, Title 457 Neb. Admin. Code* Chapter 23, § 001.04, and is GRANTED.

2. This Order granting leave to file or consider an application for a new surface water appropriation within a moratorium or stay area pursuant to petition VAR-3531 shall be in effect for one year from the date this order is signed.

3. This decision shall not bind the Director to approve any application to which it relates, or in any way be used as evidence of prejudice for the Director's future decisions concerning the specific approval requirements of such an application.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

December 20, 2013

Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E., Director

A copy of this Order was posted on the Department's website. A copy of this Order was provided to the Department's field office in Cambridge, Nebraska. A copy of this Order was mailed on December 20, 2013, to the following:

Richard Alber
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Blue Hill, Nebraska 68930