

Water Resources Department, Nebraska

RG0072 **Nebraska. Department of Water Resources**

Records: 1895-1985

Cubic ft.: 15.25

No. of items: 12 boxes, 9 vols., and 11 reels of microfilm

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Department of Water Resources was created by the 1957 Legislature and assigned all of the powers and duties formerly exercised by the Bureau of Irrigation, Water Power and Drainage in the Department of Roads and Irrigation. The department carries on the work which was started by the State Board of Irrigation, an agency created by the Legislature in 1895 and given jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to water rights for irrigation, power and other useful purposes. The original name was changed in 1911 to the State Board of Irrigation, Highways and Drainage and the head of the board, the State Engineer, was given responsibilities in additional fields, as indicated by the name. In 1919 the name was again changed to the Department of Public Works, and in 1933 it became known as the Department of Roads and Irrigation, with jurisdiction over matters pertaining to highways, motor vehicle registration and law enforcement in addition to matters pertaining to water rights. The 1957 change made the agency a separate department and returned it to a status similar to that held before it was expanded to assume the other responsibilities.

The Department of Water Resources has the duty of determining rights to the use of the waters of the natural streams of Nebraska for irrigation, power and other useful purposes. The department must also regulate the use of water from natural streams in accordance with the rights which have been determined and made of record. It is responsible for measuring and recording the flow of the various streams and canals in the state.

Taken in its entirety from the "Nebraska Blue Book." For additional information concerning this agency, see these reference volumes. The Department of Water Resources was merged with the Department of Natural Resources with the name of the latter in July of 2000. See RG060, Department of Natural Resources for records after that date.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This record group consists of the records of the State Board of Irrigation through the Department of Water Resources arranged in three subgroups: 1) Nebraska vs. Wyoming

RG0072 Nebraska. Department of Water Resources

ii

Files, 1934-1959; 2) Public Power and Irrigation Districts (defunct), 1934-1971, and 3) Miscellany, 1911-1967;

Subgroup One, Nebraska vs. Wyoming, does not have a folder by folder inventory. This subgroup contains some materials (as exhibits) dating back to 1888. Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, and U.S. exhibits are included with a list of Nebraska exhibits. There are numerous reports, exhibits, and investigations of the North Platte River. Programs for the Glendo Dam dedication, 1959, are included in Box 4. For additional material related to this case, contact the Attorney General's office as they retain the case file permanently in their office.

Subgroup Two, Public Power and Irrigation Districts (defunct) contains administrative correspondence, 1938-1966, relating to PPD's in Nebraska. Boxes two through four and volume one are files of defunct districts through merger, absorption, or dissolution. The files are arranged essentially in alphabetical order and contain petitions and certificates of approval, correspondence, reports of engineers with maps, and information on annual audits.

Miscellaneous Subgroup Three contains annual reports of the State Engineer, 1911-1912 and 1913-1914 (also available in the Library of the Historical Society); a report on water resources in Nebraska river basins (in three volumes) by the Nebraska Dept of Public Works, 1931; a file re construction of the State Irrigation Building at Bridgeport, Nebraska, in 1931; and a System Planning Study relating to integrated generation and transmission facilities in Nebraska, 1969-1985, done by the Nebraska Power Industry Engineering Committee, January 1967. Also included are some oversize photographs and maps.

The Public Power District material was transferred to the Archives in August of 1978. The rest of this record group came to the Archives in 1977. A great deal of the accession is inventoried under RG015, Department of Roads as the Department of Water Resources was not created until 1957.

Related Collections: RG001, Office of the Governors
 RG015, Department of Roads and Irrigation
 RG060, Department of Natural Resources
 RG068, Department of Environmental Quality
 RG102, Nebraska State Energy Office

ADDED ENTRIES:

AK-SAR-BEN PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT (LINCOLN, NEB.)
Almeria Public Power and Irrigation District (Loup County, Neb.)
ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN STATE ENGINEERS
Beaver-Sappa Public Power and Irrigation District (Stamford, Neb.)
Benkleman-Haigler-Arickaree Public Irrigation District (Benkleman, Neb.)
BLAINE COUNTY (NEB.)--PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION
Blue Creek Public Power and Irrigation District (Lewellyn, Neb.)
BOONE COUNTY (NEB.)--PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION

RG0072 Nebraska. Department of Water Resources

Bridgeport, Nebraska. State Irrigation Building

CANALS--NEBRASKA

Cedar Valley Public Power and Irrigation District (Primrose, Neb.)

Consumers Public Power District (Columbus, Neb.)

CUSTER COUNTY (NEB.)--PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION

Dismal River Public Irrigation District (Anselmo, Neb.)

DUNDY COUNTY (NEB.)--PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION

ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS

FURNAS COUNTY (NEB.)--PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION

GARDEN COUNTY (NEB.)--PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION

Gebhard et al vs. Burritt et al (Laramie Co., WY)

Glendo Dam (Wyo.)

GREELEY COUNTY (NEB.)--PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION

HARLAN COUNTY (NEB.)--PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION

HITCHCOCK COUNTY (NEB.)--PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION

IRRIGATION--NEBRASKA

IRRIGATION DISTRICTS--NEBRASKA--THOMAS COUNTY

KEITH COUNTY (NEB.)--PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION

Loup River Public Power District (Columbus, Neb.)

Meeker, Ralph Inman, 1878-

MORRILL COUNTY (NEB.)--PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION

NANCE COUNTY (NEB.)--PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION

Nebraska. State Board of Irrigation, Highways and Drainage (see also)

Nebraska. Department of Roads. Bureau of Irrigation, Water Power and Drainage

Nebraska. Department of Public Works (see also)

Nebraska. Department of Roads and Irrigation

Nebraska Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc. (Wayne, Neb.)

Nebraska Power Industry Board

NEBRASKA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Nebraska State Planning Board

Nebraska vs. Wyoming (U.S. Supreme Court--Nebraska)

NORTH PLATTE RIVER

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Platte Valley Public Power District (North Platte, Neb.)

POWER PLANTS

POWER RESOURCES--NEBRASKA

PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICTS--NEBRASKA--BLAINE COUNTY

PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICTS--NEBRASKA--BOONE COUNTY

PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICTS--NEBRASKA--CUSTER COUNTY

PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICTS--NEBRASKA--DUNDY COUNTY

PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICTS--NEBRASKA--FURNAS COUNTY

PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICTS--NEBRASKA--GARDEN COUNTY

ADDED ENTRIES (cont):

PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICTS--NEBRASKA--GREELEY COUNTY

RG0072 Nebraska. Department of Water Resources

i

PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICTS--NEBRASKA--HARLAN COUNTY
PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICTS--NEBRASKA--HITCHCOCK COUNTY
PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICTS--NEBRASKA--KEITH COUNTY
PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICTS--NEBRASKA--MORRILL COUNTY
PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICTS--NEBRASKA--NANCE COUNTY
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICTS--NEBRASKA--PLATTE COUNTY
UNITED STATES. PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES. RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION
WATER RIGHTS--COLORADO
WATER RIGHTS--NEBRASKA
WATER RIGHTS--WYOMING
Willis, Ralph Henry, 1869-1954
Wyoming. State Engineer

