

Nebraska Off Highway Vehicle Association **NOHVA**

TBQ Sport Club, Incorporated

A Non-Profit Association For All Terrain Vehicle and Off Road Motorcycle Users - Established 1987

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Dear Fellow ATV and Dirtbike Enthusiasts,

I am writing to you today to ask for your help in our attempt to insure the continued access that we now enjoy to the Headworks OHV Park near Genoa. The help that we need from you involves a simple letter that explains why you, your family and friends would like to see the Headworks OHV Park near Genoa remain open into the future as it exists now.

This is what MAY happen! At present, there is little danger that ATV and dirtbike riding at the area may be effected in the next three or four years. However, special interest groups such as environmental groups or Federal and State wildlife agencies believe that our activity of riding ATVs and dirtbikes for recreation with our friends and families is having a harmful effect on birds and fish. Because they "believe" that we are disturbing the birds and fish, they have in the past expressed a strong desire to close the Headworks Park to recreational ATV and dirtbike riders to protect wildlife. This closure could last most of the year during our prime riding season from March until October or close the area completely.

This is what we need YOU to do! If you, your family and friends are interested in helping insure that the Headworks OHV Park near Genoa will remain open well into the future, we need your help. Our supporters need to get as many letters as possible to the people who are approving a new license for the "Loup River Hydroelectric Project", which includes the Headworks OHV Park near Genoa. But, before anyone begins to write letters, I would like to tell you a bit about this re-licensing problem and what we can do to make sure that our desires are heard!

Facts about Re-licensing. The area where we ride at Headworks is part of the Loup River Hydroelectric Project and involves a central objective - the production of efficient, clean and low cost electric power. As a benefit to the production of electric power, the project provides a variety of recreation opportunities that are open to the public. The project is owned and operated by the Loup Power District, with main offices located in Columbus Nebraska.

This project is licensed for operation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), an agency of the U. S. Government. The license to operate the project is due to expire in 2014. Loup Power District estimates that it will require up to seven years to process the applications to the FERC. To meet the terms of the application process, Loup Power will meet with at least 50 public agencies and interest groups, hold numerous public meetings and gather a vast amount of information in order to meet the requirements of the re-licensing.

Representing NOHVA as one of the Loup Power's partners involving recreation, myself and other NOHVA members have been invited to participate in this multi-year process. We have been attending various meetings involving the application process and have been promoting our desire to see that the new license be approved for the Loup Power District with the condition that our activity (riding ATVs and dirtbikes at Headworks near Genoa) be allowed to continue as it does now and long into the future.

Re-licensing a hydroelectric power project is a highly complex federal event that takes a minimum of five years. Licensed projects must evaluate and comply with many regulations that address wildlife issues, water issues, local economic needs, cultural needs and historical considerations. The FERC is charged with evaluating input from all stakeholders (people like us) and seeking a balance between the electric power production and recreational, environmental and economic aspects of each project. Concerns and potential effects of the Headworks OHV Park will be investigated and addressed during the re-licensing process.

Time is SHORT!! Write a Letter! If you enjoy riding ATVs and dirtbike at the Headworks OHV Park and want to continue enjoying the area in the future, please consider sending your thoughts to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). ***Your opinion and comments are EXTREMELY important and they must be received by the FERC no later than February 10th, 2009!*** If you are mailing a letter, allow at least five business days for delivery.

What To Say In YOUR Letter! Your letter will be public record and will be read by many people. Because of this it is important to write a letter that is truthful, reasonable, not offensive, is readable for others and briefly describes your opinion and ideas.

In the first part of your letter at the top, place the date that you are writing the letter, and a line containing this description on the front of the letter in clear view: **"Loup River Project No. 1256-029"**.

Then describe why you are writing the letter (such as you want to continue to ride your ATV or dirtbike at the Headworks OHV Park as much possible during the year as you can now).

Then describe why you enjoy riding your ATV or dirtbike at the Headworks OHV Park. Here are some ideas:

- Mention that you enjoy being there with your family and friends! Or maybe mention that you enjoy the solitude with nature or enjoy having a place to release some energy and have some good clean fun!
- If you care to, mention items that you would like to see improved at the area.
- If you enjoy the ATV events at the area such as the Jamboree, briefly talk about it.
- Do you like the free camping, or the fishing? Mention it.
- Maybe mention that you travel a good distance and help the local economy when you visit.
- Maybe mention that you help maintain the area by volunteering work on trails and clean up projects.
- Describe some good memories that you've enjoyed at the riding area!
- If you are knowledgeable about endangered species at the area, maybe mention that you believe that our riding of ATVs and dirtbikes WITHIN the boundaries of the OHV park have little if any impact upon them and there is plenty of room for both of us.
- If you care to, mention items that you would like to see improved at the area.
- Mention anything that you think others may see as a positive, and that may help convince the FERC that we truly enjoy riding ATVs and dirtbikes at Headworks Park.
- One last thing, Headworks Park is the only public place for ATV and dirtbike trails in the eastern half of Nebraska. We would truly suffer if the area were closed more than it is now to ATV and dirtbike riders!

In closing be sure to thank the FERC for allowing the chance to state your views or opinions and again mention that it is very important to you that the area remain open when the new operating license is approved and the OHV park continues to be operated just like it is now.

Send Your WELL THOUGHT OUT LETTERS AND CIVIL COMMENTS to the below address. If you send an email, you should receive a confirmation that it was received.

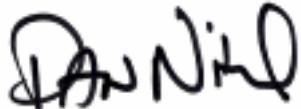
Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A
Washington, D.C. 20426

There is not an email address to send your letter to, but you can enter your "Quick Comments" from the www.ferc.gov web site. You can find the Quick Comment link on the left side of the page in the middle. The "Docket Number" is **P-1256-029**. BE SURE to think long and hard about what you send via email, it's easy to say things that you shouldn't or say them in a manner that others may not understand. As with a letter, your quick comment will be public record and will be read by many people. Because of this it is important to write a letter that is truthful, reasonable, not offensive, is readable for others and briefly describes your opinion and ideas.

If you have any questions, give me a call or an email.

Let's FLOOD them with LETTERS before February 10th! Be sure to tell your friends and family that they need their help as well.

Thanks and see you our riding!



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