

and various interests of such a nature in Nebraska. LR 27 merely reiterates or retells Nebraska's water plan. It states again for the record what Nebraskans must do if they are to use or develop the waters of this state. Federal agencies in the past have tended to ignore state plans or state laws until Congress acted to stop federal tendency to ignore those state laws, policies or plans. In the case of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Congress, in 1986, adopted language in the Federal Power Act that governs the FERC requiring the FERC to consult with state agencies on water use, and if the state has a plan on allocation of water, the FERC must give considerations to that plan. LR 27 outlines Nebraska's current plan for allocation and use of the state's water resources. And why is this resolution being brought for consideration? Simply because one year ago the FERC ordered water released from Lake McConaughy that had been held to fill state water right needs on 80,000 acres of land in the Platte Valley proper between North Platte and Kearney. The order resulted in 77,000 acre feet of water being released to the river between February 14 and May 10 when the order was stayed. Eighty thousand acres of land ran out of water they would have had in early July of 1990. Disaster was averted when Central Irrigation District was able to lend enough water for these farmers to complete their irrigation schedule for the year of 1990. Representatives of the irrigation districts involved in the FERC order have all testified in favor of LR 27. I'd like to tell you what LR 27 is not. LR 27 is not a plan for development of water in this state. It does not show dam sites. It does not say when or where well fields should be placed or where stream diversions are possible. Such plans have been done in the past and gathered the dust on the shelves of the Department of Water Resources. In any case, the FERC is not interested in building water facilities in this state. It is interested in relicensing existing power production facilities, power production facilities. LR 27 has no hidden agenda or meaning. LR 27 will not affect ongoing negotiations among Nebraska interests seeking a Nebraska solution to the relicensing efforts. LR 27 has nothing at all to do with any environmental issue in connection with relicensing. In fact, FERC, in its relicensing effort, is required to balance all possible uses of Lake McConaughy water. Finally, it has been reported that LR 27 will be ignored by FERC as it doesn't meet federal requirements for a water plan. To these critics, I can report that this resolution is the effort of persons interested...is a result of a great deal of work by former Governor Bob Crosby and persons interested in agriculture