STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

APPROVAL OF APPLICATION A-18957

WATER DIVISION 1-D

BACKGROUND

1. On August 8, 2012, Scott Thomas, on behalf of Scott and Sheri Thomas Land Co., LLC, filed in the Department of Natural Resources (Department) application A-18957 for a Permit to Appropriate Water.

2. On March 27, 2013, Scott Thomas, on behalf of Scott and Sheri Thomas Land Co., LLC, filed in the Department map number 18292 showing land proposed to be irrigated under application A-18957.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that application A-18957 is APPROVED subject to the following limitations and conditions:

1. The source of water is Thomas West Reservoir, constructed under storage appropriation A-18956.

2. The water shall be used for the purpose of irrigation.

3. The priority date is August 8, 2012.

4. Only the land shown on map number 18292 may be irrigated under appropriation A-18957.

5. This appropriation will be limited to the land irrigated and the amount of water beneficially used on an annual basis. Such amount shall not exceed 35.0 acre-feet per annum.

6. This appropriation is subject to the provisions of the Blue River Compact and could be closed if Compact flows are not being met.

7. The appropriator must comply with all relevant statutes. The statutes include, but are not limited to, the following:

   A. Notify the Department of any change in ownership or address.

   B. Notify the Department of the name and address of the person responsible for the use of the water appropriation (this may include farm managers, tenants, or relatives that actually apply the water to the approved use).

   C. Obtain approval from the Department prior to taking any action that changes the location of the point of diversion, the location of the place of use, the type of use, or the type of appropriation.

8. The appropriator must comply with the following deadlines:

A. Construction of the diversion works must begin within twelve months of the signing date of this application approval. The appropriator must proceed diligently with the construction unless interrupted by some unavoidable and natural cause.

B. Construction of the project must be completed by two years past the signing date of this application approval.

C. The appropriation is not considered perfected until water has been beneficially applied for the purpose stated in this approval. The water appropriated under A-18957 must be beneficially used by September 1, 2015.

D. After September 1, 2015, a field investigation will be conducted to determine the acres irrigated, after which an order of cancellation will be issued for any unused portions of appropriation A-18957.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Failure to comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to surface water appropriations, any orders issued by the Director of the Department of Natural Resources, or the provisions of this Approval may result in the cancellation of the appropriation, temporary closing of the appropriation, administrative penalty, criminal prosecution, or any combination thereof.

Nebraska law provides that failure to use a portion or all of a perfected appropriation for more than five consecutive years may result in cancellation of the appropriation.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

May 8, 2013

Brian P. Dunnigan

Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E., Director

The applicant and any person with sufficient legal interest who has been or may be substantially affected by this order may request a contested case hearing in accordance with the *Neb. Admin. Procedures Act* §§ 84-901 et. seq. RRS and the Department's *Rules of Practice and Procedure Title 454 Admin. Code* Chapter 7. The request must be received by the Department at its Lincoln office (Nebraska State Office Building, 4th Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 94676, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4676) within 30 days of the date of the order and be accompanied by a filing fee of $10.

A copy of this approval was posted on the Department's website and provided to the Department's field office in Lincoln, Nebraska. A copy of this approval was mailed on May 8, 2013, to the following:

Scott and Sheri Thomas Land Co., LLC
c/o Scott Thomas
42322 South 176th Road
Liberty, NE 68381