Summary of Lower Platte River Ice Report
January 26, 2009 through January 30, 2009

Ice thickness measurements were taken by on the Platte River on January 21, 2009 by the Papio- Missouri NRD. Measurements were taken perpendicular to the river flow, near the Dike on the KPI Property, at approximately Station 254+00 (3.1 miles upstream of Highway 64). The average ice thickness on the river is as reported, from those measurements, to be 14.4 inches.

Confluence of the Elkhorn/Platte River

Above confluence of Elkhorn and Platte the river has an open, flowing channel remaining on the West side of the Elkhorn River. The east side is snow covered.

At Capehart Rd., 4 miles north of Highway 6 the character of intact ice cover shows a surface roughness of less than .5 feet. Ice is snow covered with no evidence of decay, cracks or fracturing. In the Elkhorn there is an open channel by the west bank as far as the observer could see. In the Platte there is an open channel by the east bank downstream as far as the observer could see. There is also an open channel by the west bank.

Elkhorn River

At Hwy 57 in Stranton, the river is frozen from county line to county line. Some small cracks due to cold ice building and thickness is down, with water still flowing under. River is covered with 4 to 6 inches of new snow, some small spots with water on the top of the ice do to warm springs is reported. No evidence of decay or breaking up. however; there are lots of cracking due to cold temperatures'. Observer noted that the snowmobiles have still not tried the river yet but is certain they will try in the near future. Observer will be notified of any holes in the ice or weak spots by amount of activity trying to recover snowmobiles.

At Highway 30 Bridge the character of ice shows a intact ice cover surface roughness of less than .5 feet. Snow covered with no evidence of decay cracks or fracturing. There is a small open channel by the east bank downstream of the bridge.

At Highway 36 by Highway 36 Bridge the character of intact ice cover showed a roughness of less than .5 ft. snow covered with no evidence of decay, cracking or fracturing. There is no open water, total ice cover.

Highway 64 at Highway 64 Bridge the character of intact ice cover shows a surface roughness of less than .5 ft. There is no evidence of decay, cracks or fracturing. There is an open channel in the middle of the river and by the west bank as far as the observer could see.

At Highway 92 by Highway 92 Bridge, the character of intact ice cover showed a surface roughness of less than .5 ft with no evidence of decay, cracks or fracturing. There is no open water, total ice cover.

Platte River

Highway 92 Bridge site shows a surface roughness of less than .5 ft. with no evidence of fracturing, cracks or decay. In the west channel there is a small open channel by the west bank upstream and downstream of both bridges. In the east channel there are small open channels upstream and downstream on the bridges.

3.1 miles north of Hwy 64 Bridge the Ice cover shows a surface roughness of less than .5ft. with no evidence of fracturing, cracks or decay.

¼ mile north of Fairview Rd, 3 ½ miles upstream of NE Hwy 6 Bridge the character of intact Ice cover shows a roughness of less than .5 feet. The ice is snow covered with no evidence of decay, cracks or fracturing. There is an open channel by the south bank that is 30' – 100' wide and about ¾ mile long. There is a little open water in the middle of the river.

At the Biel Dike road location there is approximately 50-60 ft of open flowing channel. Border ice appears to be being overtopped at the edge by rising of river. Intact ice is snow covered.

Hwy 6 Bridge and the Platte River Bridge, ice is snow covered but there has been some break up of ice in various locations along previously open water. Upstream view is snow covered with what appeared to be fractured ice piled up in the distance. Downstream from the bridge location there is approximately 50 feet of open water which appears to be about 10-15 feet wide. At the far end (downstream) of this opening in the water/ice, there is broken ice which appears to have piled up along a sandbar and there are broken pieces perpendicular to the river/frozen sections. There was also an area just upstream of the Railroad bridge on the eastern side that had broken ice piling.

At Hwy 31 Schramm Road Location near the Metro Connection Bridge there is evidence of water overtopping the shore ice. (approx. 8-10 feet from shore) and the channel is open and flowing freely. It is approximately 30-40 feet wide and flowing rapidly.

At the Highway 50 Platte River Bridge location, the channel is open and flowing in the south of center location of bridge (approx. 50'-60' open.) Remaining ice and sandbars are snow covered. There is evidence of breakup and broken ice which has accumulated along an edge of the sandbar on the Northern half of the river.

At Highway 50 Louisville Bridge there is freeze up with growth from shore of 6 ft. 95% of the channel remains open 5% of the open channel surface is occupied by frazil slush. The main channel is approximately 60-80 feet. The channel is switching from right bank up river to left bank down river. There is solid ice in the shallows and on the sandbars. The ice is still snow covered.

At Cedar Creek Dike location there was a channel approximately 60 feet wide along the left bank shifting down river to the right bank. There was solid ice in the shallows and on the sandbars. The ice is still snow covered.

At Highway 75 Bridge at Plattsmouth the main channel is approx. 80 feet wide from left bank extending to the middle of the river. There is a channel approx. 20 feet along the right bank of the river. There is solid ice in the shallows and on the sandbars, with most of the ice still being snow covered.