



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor • Mark N. Templeton, Director

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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FEB 19 2010

Mr. Bobby Williams, Chairman  
North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission  
P.O. Box 164  
Milan, MO 63556

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am writing to offer the Department of Natural Resources' continued support of your efforts to develop a long-term sustainable water supply source in Sullivan County. The department has and will continue to support a regional water supply system for North Central Missouri. Since the early stages of this project, the department has provided financial and technical assistance to this effort. Due to the fact that in most instances regional water systems provide for a more efficient and cost effective method of providing high quality water, the department will continue to give priority for assistance to regional water supply systems over small disparate systems.

Based on numerous stream and groundwater evaluations conducted by both department staff and private engineering firms, a surface water reservoir has been identified as the most feasible alternative to securing a long-term sustainable water source for North Central Missouri. The department endorses the recommendations of the "Water System Feasibility Study" prepared by Burns & McDonnell in 2003, which concluded that a reservoir on East Fork of Locust Creek is the most cost effective solution to the region's water supply needs.

The citizens of Sullivan County are to be commended for taking the leadership and initiative in forming North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission to develop a long-term sustainable water system for the region. While many of the communities in the region have addressed their short-term water shortage needs in recent years, studies have shown that these short-term solutions are not sustainable through extended periods of drought nor will they support long-term economic growth in the region. The department continues to support a centrally located reservoir capable of sustaining the region's future water supply demands.

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During periods of extended drought in Missouri, the Missouri Drought Assessment Committee, which I chair, has recognized that communities in and near Sullivan County often have the most critical water supply shortages in the state. This information further emphasizes the need for a more sustainable water supply system in this region. Please let me know if the department can be of assistance to the Commission as you continue to work towards this most worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael D. Wells".

Michael D. Wells  
Deputy Director for Water Resources