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PSC RETAINS GRAIN STORAGE FEES AT CURRENT RATES

LINCOLN – Grain storage rates in warehouse facilities licensed by Nebraska will remain the same for the 2004 crop year, the Public Service Commission said June 2 at its weekly meeting.

The Commission approved the recommendation of its grain warehouse staff to keep its Schedule A and E rates at the same level where they have been since 1990. Schedule A covers barley, corn, grain sorghum, millet, oats, rye, soybeans, sunflower seeds, and wheat. Schedule E includes dry edible beans and popcorn.

Staff informed the five-member Commission that no comments indicated the current rates were inadequate or excessive.

Schedule A calls for a one-time charge not to exceed 25 cents per bushel and 120 thousandths of a cent per bushel per day except for soybeans which have a daily charge of 135 thousandths of a cent.

The Schedule E rate for dry edible beans has a receiving charge of 15 cents per hundredweight as well as a delivery charge, also at 15 cents per hundredweight. The charge for storage and insurance is 33 thousandths of a cent per hundredweight.

Popcorn storage has a one time combined receiving and delivery charge of up to 30 cents per hundredweight with a storage and insurance rates between 15 thousandths of a cent to 25 thousandths of a cent per hundredweight per day.

The Commission conducted a public hearing on the proposed rates on May 26, and no members of the public testified. Written testimony was received from the Nebraska Cooperative Council on Schedule A and Kelley Bean Company of Scottsbluff on Schedule E.

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