



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Great Plains Region
Nebraska-Kansas Area Office
1706 West 3rd Street
McCook, NE 69001-2159

APR 24 2013

IN REPLY REFER TO:
NK- Thompson
WTR-4.10 RR

Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E.
Director
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 94676
Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

Subject: Surface Water Administration of the Republican River Basin in Nebraska, Enders Reservoir, Swanson Lake, Hugh Butler Lake, Harry Strunk Lake, Frenchman-Cambridge Division, Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Dunnigan:

This letter is in reference to your April 1, 2013, order to release water impounded in the Republican River Basin between January 1, 2013, and March 31, 2013, and the accompanying Storage Release Notice (Notice) given for Swanson Lake, Enders Reservoir, Hugh Butler Lake and Harry Strunk Lake. The release order resulted from the Compact Call issued by the Department on January 1, 2013, and the corresponding Storage Closing Notice on the same date.

Reclamation has complied with your Notice to release water impounded in Reclamation's four reservoirs between January 1, 2013, and March 31, 2013. Releases from Enders Reservoir began at 10:25 a.m. CDT on April 2, 2013, and ended at 07:15 a.m. CDT on April 5, 2013, with a total of 425 acre-feet released. Swanson Lake releases began at 09:30 a.m. CDT on April 2, 2013, and ended at 09:45 a.m. CDT on April 23, 2013, with a total of 2,776 acre-feet released. Releases from Hugh Butler Lake began at 10:15 a.m. CDT on April 2, 2013, and ended at 10:00 a.m. CDT on April 23, 2013, with a total of 2,896 acre-feet released. Harry Strunk Lake releases began at 09:20 a.m. CDT on April 2, 2013, and ended at 11:45 a.m. CDT on April 23, 2013, with a total of 7,092 acre-feet released. A total of 13,189 acre-feet was released from the four Reclamation reservoirs as ordered by the State of Nebraska. The Notice requested a total release of 13,216 acre-feet. Subsequent to the receiving the Notice, we received approval from staff of your Cambridge Field Office to reallocate 12,764 AF of storage releases between Swanson, Hugh Butler and Harry Strunk Lakes. Including the storage release of 425 acre-feet from Enders Reservoir, 13,189 acre-feet was the correct amount to release.

We request any further analysis your office has completed to determine the amount of additional stream flows that are needed at the state line to satisfy Nebraska's compliance obligations under the Compact and to remove the Compact Call on the Federal projects. It is our understanding, based on data and information available on January 1, 2013, Nebraska's Forecast indicated

140,000 acre-feet must pass the state line to ensure that Nebraska is compliant with the Compact. Indeed, there is now better information and data available in regards to the components of your January Forecast that would allow for an updated Forecast. In particular, the surface water consumptive use component of your Forecast has decreased as a result of the above storage releases. Also, it is our understanding that other components of the Forecast, specifically related to the 2012 RRCA accounting data, could be updated that will likely result in adjustments to the needed stream flows at the state line.

Please provide a response as soon as practical so Reclamation can continue to evaluate alternatives to minimize the impacts to surface water users in the basin during 2013. Reclamation is committed to work collaboratively with your office to assist Nebraska in meeting Compact compliance and honoring contractual agreements with the irrigation districts in the basin that receive stored water. If you have any questions, please contact me at the above address or by telephone at 308-345-1027.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aaron M. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Aaron" being the most prominent.

Aaron M. Thompson
Area Manager