



United States Department of the Interior

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

MAY 13 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: Agreement on Harlan County Lake 2013 Operations

Dear Mr. Dunnigan:

Bureau of Reclamation is in receipt of your letter dated May 10, 2013, outlining the 2013 plan of operations and procedures for accounting of storage water in Harlan County Lake (HCL). Reclamation appreciates the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) willingness to work with Reclamation and the Bostwick Irrigation District (KBID) to develop an operations plan that will benefit KBID's water users in 2013. Reclamation has reviewed your letter describing the terms of the agreement and offers the following comments:

- 1) Reclamation concurs with term No. 1 as described.
- 2) Reclamation understands that KBID has agreed to use 2012 stored project water before using 2013 Compact water. However, KBID's priority of use of stored water in HCL is a decision of KBID and is not a condition set forth in Contract 13WR630075 between KBID and the United States, signed May 10, 2013.
- 3) Reclamation concurs with term No. 3.
- 4) Reclamation concurs with term No. 4 as described.
- 5) Reclamation concurs with term No. 5 as described.
- 6) Reclamation understands all natural inflows to HCL will be assigned to the Compact water account until the closing notice for Reclamation's storage permit is lifted. Project water released from upstream reservoirs to HCL, if any, that was legally stored prior to January 1, 2013, will be delivered to the Bostwick Division as determined by Reclamation.

Finally, Reclamation requests DNR temporarily suspend issuing release orders on the reservoirs upstream of HCL until after the irrigation season. This will give DNR the opportunity to fully evaluate the benefits of all the storage releases made to date and the need to make any additional releases. The release of water from these upstream reservoirs at this time may prove to be unnecessary.

Sincerely,



Aaron M. Thompson
Area Manager