



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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

AUG 16 2013

IN REPLY REFER TO:

NK-Thompson
WTR-4.10 RR

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

RECEIVED
AUG 19 2013
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Subject: Request for Information Related to the Administration of the Republican River Basin

Dear Mr. Dunnigan:

Bureau of Reclamation appreciates the flexibility the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has provided to temporarily store Compact water in the Federal reservoirs in the Republican River Basin while DNR continues to evaluate Nebraska's Compact compliance projections and the need for additional administration. At the end of July, approximately 24,800 acre-feet (AF) of water is being stored in the Compact accounting pool in Harlan County Lake (HCL) and approximately 11,700 AF remains in the Compact accounting pools in the four Federal reservoirs above HCL. As you know, the 2013 water supplies for Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District (FCID) have been limited due to Nebraska's administration related to the Compact Call and the extended dry conditions in the Basin. It appears FCID will exhaust their available water supplies by the end of August.

With this in mind, Reclamation is requesting an update of DNR's compliance projections and whether the projected benefits of Nebraska's management actions (e.g. Rock Creek augmentation project), pursuant to the Republican River Integrated Management Plans, have been realized as identified in Nebraska's forecasting process. In addition, we request an evaluation of the forecast procedures that were used to predict this year's Compact compliance needs. How did actual conditions that prevail compare to Nebraska's January forecast? Reclamation also requests an update of the additional amount of water DNR anticipates releasing from the Compact accounting pools, if any, following the irrigation season. If DNR's projections indicate only a portion of the Compact water will be needed for release then any remaining water should be immediately converted to Federal project water.

Finally, please be aware that Reclamation maintenance staff will be repairing damaged concrete in the Courtland Canal discharge basin supplying Lovewell Reservoir. These repairs will begin immediately following the irrigation season and are expected to be completed no later than the

end of September. Diversions into Courtland Canal will be temporarily suspended during this time. If DNR anticipates releasing Compact water from HCL following the irrigation season, Reclamation requests that DNR schedule such releases so all available water can be captured in Courtland Canal to refill Lovewell Reservoir. This will lessen the need to operate the canal during the winter months.

Please provide a response as soon as practical so Reclamation can evaluate the water supplies available to the Federal projects for the remainder of the 2013 irrigation season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron M. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Aaron M. Thompson
Area Manager

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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