



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Great Plains Regional Office
P.O. Box 36900
Billings, MT 59107-6900

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OCT 10 2013

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

IN REPLY REFER TO:

GP-4600

WTR-4.10

OCT - 8 2013

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

Subject: Use and Release of Compact Water Stored in Harlan County Lake (HCL) under United States Contract

Dear Mr. Dunnigan:

This is in response to Nebraska's (Dunnigan) letter to Kansas (Barfield), dated October 8, 2013, where Nebraska expressed the need to release the remaining water stored in the Compact accounting pool from Harlan County Lake (HCL). To be clear, the Bureau of Reclamation does not plan to immediately release the Compact water remaining in HCL. As you are both fully aware, the United States entered a contract with Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District (KBID) in May 2013 for storage and conveyance of the water stored in HCL during 2013 for use by KBID. This contract includes the release and conveyance of water after the actual irrigation season, but before the end of the calendar year. The remaining water stored under the contract during 2013 will be evacuated prior to December 31, 2013, the expiration of the existing contract. Keeping the water in storage as long as possible this year will not erode the benefits of Nebraska's Compact compliance efforts.

Reclamation continues to be willing to work with both Nebraska and Kansas to make this Compact water available for beneficial use. However, a contractual arrangement with mutually agreeable terms will need to be made to continue to store the water into 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact Aaron Thompson, Nebraska-Kansas Area Office Manager, at 308-345-1027.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Ryan
Regional Director

Identical Letter Sent To:

Mr. David Barfield, P.E.
Kansas State Engineer
Division of Water Resources
109 SW 9th Street, 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1283

cc: Mr. James DuBois
U. S. Department of Justice
Environment and Natural Resources Division
999 18th Street
South Terrace, Suite 370
Denver, CO 80202

Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District
Attention: Water Control Section
700 Federal Building, Room 844
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

Mr. John Chaffin
Office of the Solicitor
Billings Field Office
2021 4th Avenue North, Suite 112
Billings, MT 59101

Mr. Kenny Nelson
Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District No. 2
P.O. Box 165
Courtland, KS 66939

Mr. Dick Wolfe, P.E.
Colorado State Engineer
Colorado Division of Water Resources
1313 Sherman Street, Room 818
Denver, CO 80820

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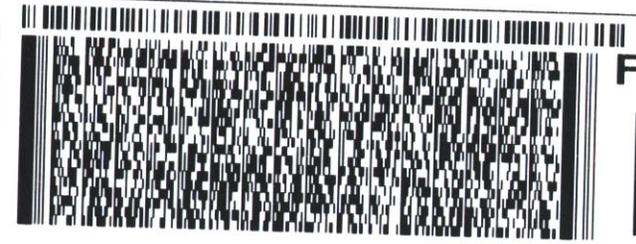
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DIRECTOR
LINCOLN NE 685094676

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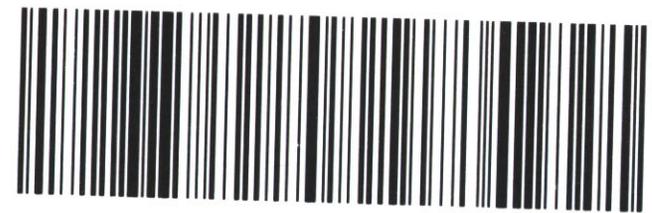
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