



United States Department of the Interior

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

GP-4600
WTR-4.10

OCT 11 2013

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OCT 15 2013

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

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

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

Dear Mr. Dunnigan:

The Bureau of Reclamation would again like to assure DNR that we are not frustrating Nebraska's compliance efforts and any remaining water stored under the Contract will be evacuated prior to December 31, 2013, unless all three Republican River Compact Administration Commissioners can agree on leaving that water in HCL. Reclamation does not see how not releasing this water at this time will affect Nebraska's Compact compliance efforts. In this regards, Reclamation would appreciate and explanation for the need to release the water now from HCL vs. by the end of the calendar year. Until we fully understand this issue it is difficult for us to respond.

Reclamation appreciates your patience regarding the Order and Release Notice for HCL as we continue to work with all parties involved. As you are aware, the majority of the Federal Government has been shut down and many of our employees are in furlough status. We are in the process or recalling employees to specifically help us in regards to this matter. We received your letters approximately one week into the shut down, and we are trying to be diligent in providing an informed response to you.

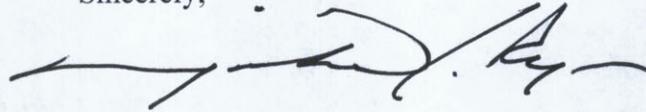
This morning (October 11, 2013) we were informed that the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District (KBID) Board of Directors (Board) met to determine what they would like to do with the water stored in HCL under their Warren Act Contract No. 13WR630075 (Contract). The Board determined to first accomplish some repairs to the Courtland Canal and at a later date decide when they want the contracted water released from HCL.

Reclamation will continue to provide you with updates on that amount of "Compact" water stored in HCL, along with all upstream reservoirs in the system. Additionally we offer our assistance in providing evaporation estimates between now and the end of the year. Reclamation can also increase our reservoir amounts reporting if Nebraska DNR

would like (either weekly or daily) if this information will help Nebraska with the status of this "Compact" water. We can also provide transit loss estimate for when the water will be released. Reclamation is still willing to work with both Nebraska and Kansas to reach an agreement to carryover this water into 2014.

We appreciate your patience in this matter and once we have staff back early next week from being furloughed we will provide you a more detailed response. If you have any questions, please contact me at 406-247-7600.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Ryan
Regional Director

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

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

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

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Billings Field Office
2021 4th Avenue North, Suite 112
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Mr. James DuBois
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Environment and Natural Resources Division
999 18th Street
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Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
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