



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E.
Director

May 22, 2013

IN REPLY TO:

Aaron Thompson
Area Manager
Great Plains Region
Bureau of Reclamation
1706 West Third
McCook, NE 69001

RE: Republican River Basin Water Administration

Dear Mr. Thompson:

This letter is in reply to your April 24, 2013, and May 13, 2013, letters requesting information related to analyses conducted by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (Department) to determine the amounts of streamflow that are needed at the stateline to satisfy Nebraska's Compact compliance obligations and the Department's future plans related to administering the Compact Call. As you noted in your letters, the Department forecasted the necessary volume of stateline streamflows in 2013 to be approximately 140,000 acre-feet to ensure compliance for the 2012-2013 period. The Department is working on evaluating and updating its Compact accounting estimates for 2013 and will continue to do so throughout the year.

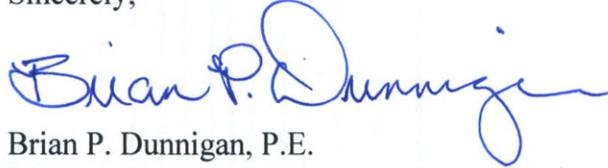
The Department appreciates the information that the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has provided on their expected water deliveries for 2013 and will incorporate this information into its updates. The Department hopes to share information on its updated 2013 accounting projections with Reclamation and other water users in the basin in the upcoming months.

As outlined in the Department's May 10, 2013, letter to you and your May 13, 2013 response, we have agreed to proper procedures to track the water in Harlan County Lake. This will allow us to wait until at least after the irrigation season to order any additional releases of water from Harlan County Lake. With regard to the federal reservoirs in Nebraska upstream of Harlan County Lake, the Department and Reclamation will need to agree to similarly appropriate tracking mechanisms. If that is accomplished, the Department does not plan to require any additional releases of water being temporarily held in those reservoirs under the Compact Call until after the irrigation season. Please have your staff contact Jim Schneider at 402-471-3141 to discuss the necessary tracking components for those reservoirs.

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Following the irrigation season, the Department will evaluate the updated 2013 accounting projections and determine if any additional releases will be necessary. However, the Compact Call Year administration on all natural flow rights is currently planned to continue through the irrigation season.

Sincerely,



Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E.
Director