

**From:** [Swanda, Marvin R](#)  
**To:** [Thompson, Aaron M](#)  
**Cc:** [Esplin, Brent](#); [Scott, Craig D](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Hill Visits - Need Schedule  
**Date:** Monday, June 01, 2009 10:05:54 AM  
**Attachments:** [QA for Ryan \(27.8 KB\).msg](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Aaron

Here are the Q&A that we put together as requested.

Let me know if anything else is required.

Marv

From: Esplin, Brent  
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2009 2:50 PM  
To: Swanda, Marvin R; Kube, Michael D  
Cc: Thompson, Aaron M  
Subject: FW: Hill Visits - Need Schedule  
Importance: High

And the fun continues ...

See message below. We need to prepare a few Q&A's for the RD as part of his preparation for his scheduled Hill visits in June.

I believe our "hot topics" align with a most recent flurry of briefing papers, which are Republican River Compact and Bonny Reservoir. I'm not familiar with any real hot issues. However, if you can think of any, please draft a potential question and short answer. The recent discussion of reduced services at the state recreation areas in Nebraska could qualify.

I'll be out on Monday. These are due to the Region by noon on Monday, which is a pretty short turn around.

-Brent

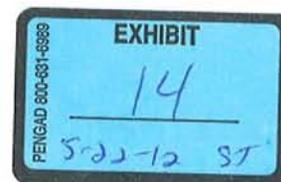
From: Davies, Steve On Behalf Of Petersen, Lois Ann  
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2009 2:06 PM  
To: Breitzman, Dennis E; Gere, Gregory S; Collins, Michael (Mike) P; McKeral, Cathleen J (CJ); Jewell, Daniel (Dan) E; Sawatzke, Thomas (Tom) G; Thompson, Aaron M; Esplin, Brent; Trevino, Mark A; Allard, James; Lawson, John H; Myler, Lyle D  
Cc: Birdwell, Sabina; Buchholz, Marcia L; Campbell, Gary W; Soucy, John F; Ryan, Michael J; Petersen, Lois Ann; Olsen, Margaret R (Rae)  
Subject: FW: Hill Visits - Need Schedule  
Importance: High

Hi to all: Please see the attached tentative schedule for Mike Ryan's upcoming Hill appointments June 9-11.

In preparation of these meetings Mike would like each Area Office to prepare a list of potential questions along with answers on your respective "hot topics". Mike's only day in the office next week will be Tuesday June 2, so please send these to Ann Peterson by 12 noon Monday June 1.

Thanks, and remember that I am the messenger!

Steve Davies



Acting Special Assistant  
Great Plains Regional Office  
406-247-7608

From: Olsen, Margaret R (Rae)  
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2009 10:45 AM  
To: Davies, Steve  
Subject: RE: Hill Visits - Need Schedule  
Importance: High

This is the current schedule - there will be some tweaks. I am still not sure that all these members will be there - that would be unusual - but for now, here it is.

From: Davies, Steve  
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2009 11:26 AM  
To: Olsen, Margaret R (Rae)  
Subject: Hill Visits - Need Schedule

Rae - Gary and Mike would like the schedule for the upcoming Hill visits ASAP. Mike is only going to be in the office on Tuesday next week so they are clearing time to go over briefings, etc.

talk soon, Steve

**Q&A's for Mike Ryan  
Hill Visit  
June 9-11, 2009**

**Republican River Compact Issues and Bonny Reservoir**

1. What is Reclamation's role in the Compact?

Reclamation has 7 dams and reservoirs (COE has 2) and associated distribution systems that provide water to 6 irrigation districts and one municipality. Reclamation played a major role in the studies that were conducted in the late 1940's to assess the water supply of the basin. Based on these studies conducted with the States the waters of the basin were allocated per the 1943 RR Compact. Our projects were designed to fit into each within each states share of the Compact allocations and not cause a non-compliance issue with any state. The federal projects are an integral part of the basin and Compact. The operation of the projects has a major affect in the accounting and compliance of the individual states.

2. Is Reclamation doing everything it can to help resolve the current RR Compact Issues?

Reclamation has been actively participating in all meetings that involve the States when possible. We have made it known to the State Engineers that we will work with all three states on the issues and provide any assistance within our authorities and policies.

3. What is Reclamation's position on the viability of its projects?

The federal projects have been experiencing significant water supply shortages. The shortages are more severe for several of the projects in the upper basin. We believe that there is a strong correlation to the groundwater use by the states especially NE and CO. We believe that the groundwater use is depleting the streamflow to the extent that the baseflows have declined significantly and in some cases almost 90-100% depletion of inflows has occurred. We have indicated this in our testimony on the NRD/DNR's Integrated Management Plans and in other forums.

We continue to support the projects and their viability.

4. Why did Reclamation testify at the recent Arbitration Hearings?

Reclamation was requested thru a Toughey request from Kansas to supply testimony relative to the federal projects. We provided testimony related to the current Reclamation policies and the historic operations of the federal projects and the water supply of the basin. This was supported by the Secretary.

5. What are the issues concerning Bonny Reservoir and the State of Colorado?

Colorado has overused their share of the Compact allocation by an average of 11,000 since 2003. Currently, the CO does not have rules/regulations in place that will curtail the groundwater use in the basin. To safeguard the future of groundwater irrigation, the state is moving forward on an augmentation pipeline that would offset some of their overuse due of the area in the short term . It is unclear on what the state will do for their long term solution but appears limited to the curtailment of groundwater use.

The state has also indicated that it wants to drain Bonny Reservoir which is located on the S. Fork of the Republican. They believe that this will offset most of the overuse on that sub-basin and help meet the sub-basin test that is impacting the State of KS. Reclamation has been ordered by the State Engineer to release water stored "out of priority" from Bonny. Little of the water released from Bonny has reached the Compact gaging station to offset CO's overuse in the South Fork sub-basin. We do not believe that this will alleviate the overuse in the long term without a significant curtailment in pumping.

6. How has the Federal projects been impacted in the basin by the overuse of NE and CO?

The overuse has caused streamflow depletions throughout the basin. This has resulted in short water supplies as it relates to natural flows and storage in the federal reservoirs. The shortage has dramatically affected our irrigation districts in their viability as well as the benefits related to recreation and fish/wildlife at the reservoirs.