



News Release

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Water Management Monthly News Release

OMAHA – Dry conditions persist across much of the Missouri River basin. Water stored in the reservoirs is well below normal, triggering new water conservation measures contained in the revised Master Manual.

“June’s runoff above Sioux City was only 56 percent of normal,” said Larry Cieslik, Chief of the Water Management office in Omaha. Inflows into Fort Peck and Garrison were less than half of normal.

“The annual runoff of water from the melting mountain snow has been very disappointing. We are forecasting this year’s runoff to be 15.7 million acre feet (MAF),” said Cieslik. Normal runoff is 25.2 MAF. System storage ended June at 38.6 MAF, down less than 100,000 acre feet.

“Because the reservoirs are low, releases will remain at minimum service levels. The navigation season will be shortened 47 days, in accordance with the revised Master Manual and its more stringent drought conservation measures,” said Cieslik. The Corps is able to maintain minimum flows this summer in support of project purposes, to include navigation without a split season, due to the successful completion of construction of more than 1,200 acres of shallow water habitat by July 1.

Flow support for the commercial navigation season will end as follows:

Sioux City, Iowa	October 6
Omaha, Nebraska	October 8
Nebraska City, Nebraska	October 9
Kansas City, Missouri	October 11
Mouth near St. Louis, Missouri	October 15

“Despite the dry conditions, localized rains improved river stages in the lower portion of the river allowing us to cut releases from Gavins Point from 30,000 to 28,000 cubic feet per second (cfs),” said Cieslik. Gavins Point releases averaged 28,600 cubic feet per second (cfs) during the month, compared to a long-term average of 31,200 cfs. Releases are being set at 28,000 cfs to avoid harming the nesting interior least terns and piping plovers and to provide for all authorized purposes later in the summer when tributary flows decline.

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Lewis and Clark Lake will remain near elevation 1206 feet msl during July.

Fort Randall releases averaged 26,600 cfs in June. They will range from 26,000 cfs to 28,000 cfs in July as needed to maintain Lewis and Clark Lake near its desired elevation. Lake Francis Case ended June at 1355 feet msl, where it will remain during the summer.

Lake Oahe dropped less than two feet during June, ending the month at elevation 1576.8 feet msl. It will fall more than three feet in July, ending the month 33 feet below average. The reservoir is 11 feet lower than last year at this time.

Garrison releases averaged 18,000 cfs during July. Releases will remain near 18,000 cfs during July and August. Lake Sakakawea rose more than one foot in June, ending the month at elevation 1816.5 feet msl. It will drop less than three feet in July, ending the month 28 feet below average. The reservoir is 11 feet lower than last year at this time.

Fort Peck releases averaged 6,600 cfs in June. Releases were reduced to 6,000 cfs mid-month to help hold the lake steady during June. They were increased to 7,500 cfs on July 1 to better supply irrigation water below the dam. The reservoir raised slightly during June, ending the month at elevation 2203.8 feet msl. It will drop less than two feet during July, ending the month 35 feet below average. Last year at this time it was 10 feet higher.

The six main stem power plants generated 702 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity in June, 79 percent of normal. The forecast for 2004 energy production is 6.8 billion kWh, compared to a normal of 10 billion kWh.

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Daily and forecasted reservoir and river information is available on the water management section of the Northwestern Division homepage at www.nwd.usace.army.mil.

MISSOURI RIVER MAIN STEM RESERVOIR DATA

	Pool Elevation (ft msl)		Water in Storage - 1,000 acre-feet		
	On June 30	Change in June	On June 30	% of 1967-2003 Average	Change in June
Fort Peck	2203.8	+0.4	9,565	61	+58
Garrison	1816.5	+1.2	12,426	64	+305
Oahe	1576.4	-1.6	11,045	57	-293
Big Bend	1419.7	-1.1	1,668	97	-59
Fort Randall	1355.0	-0.7	3,535	90	-49
Gavins Point	1205.8	-1.4	352	90	-37
			38,591	64	-75

WATER RELEASES AND ENERGY GENERATION FOR JUNE

	Average Release in 1,000 cfs	Releases in 1,000 af	Generation in 1,000 MWh
Fort Peck	6.6	393	55
Garrison	18.0	1071	140
Oahe	24.6	1462	183
Big Bend	23.5	1398	82
Fort Randall	26.6	1585	169
Gavins Point	28.6	1702	73
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