



# News Release

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## Water Management Monthly News Release

OMAHA – Water stored in the six Missouri River reservoirs continues to decline as drought conditions persist across much of the basin. Releases from the reservoirs are being reduced this week, signaling the end of the commercial navigation season.

“September’s runoff was near normal for the first time in many months,” said Brig. Gen. William Grisoli, Northwestern Division Engineer. “Consistent rains allowed us to reduce Gavins Point releases from 27,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) to as low as 21,000 cfs. They were maintained at 23,500 cfs as we neared the end of the navigation season,” he said.

Releases are currently being reduced at a rate of 3,000 cfs a day, reaching 12,000 cfs around Oct. 10. Releases will be held there for several days before dropping to 11,000 cfs. The river is expected to drop about 3 feet in the Sioux City area and 5 feet in Omaha as the tributaries continue to fall.

“As part of drought conservation measures, the fall non-navigation release rate could be set as low as 9,000 cfs. However, we will proceed with caution, continuing to monitor river conditions and water supply intakes before making any further reductions,” said General Grisoli.

Seven public meetings to review the draft 2004-2005 Annual Operating Plan for the Missouri River will be held this month. They are:

Tue., Oct. 12 – 7 p.m. – Williston, N.D. at the El Rancho Motor Motel, 1623 Second Ave., W  
Wed., Oct. 13 – 11 a.m. – Glasgow, Mont., at the Cottonwood Inn, Hwy 2 East  
Wed., Oct. 13 – 5 p.m. – Pierre, S.D. at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel, 920 West Sioux Ave  
Thu., Oct. 14 – 7 p.m. – Kansas City, Mo, at the Hilton Kansas City Airport.

Tue., Oct. 26 – 1 p.m. – Omaha, Neb. at the Corps of Engineers building, 12565 West Center Rd  
Wed., Oct. 27 – 7 p.m. – New Orleans, La., at the Double Tree Hotel, 300 Canal Street  
Thu., Oct. 28 – 7 p.m. – St. Louis, Mo., Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel, 10700 Peartree Lane

As previously announced, the navigation season is being shortened 47 days. Support for the commercial navigation season ends on the following dates:

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

The current runoff forecast for 2004 is 16.5 million acre feet (MAF), compared to a normal of 25.2 MAF. Runoff above Sioux City, Iowa, in September was 1.2 MAF.

System storage ended September at 35.8 MAF. Last year at this time it was 41.4 MAF. The amount of water currently stored in the reservoirs is nearly 22 MAF below average.

Lewis and Clark Lake will remain near elevation 1207 feet msl during October.

Fort Randall releases averaged 24,700 cfs in September. As the navigation season ends, they are gradually being reduced to a range of 9,000 to 10,000 cfs. Lake Francis Case ended September at 1345.5 feet msl. The reservoir continues its annual drawdown in October, ending the month near elevation 1338 feet msl. The drawdown is occurring sooner than in previous years due to the reduced releases as the navigation season ends.

Lake Oahe rose more than one foot in September ending the month at elevation 1572.1 feet msl. It will rise nearly a foot in October, ending the month 30 feet below average. The reservoir is 8 feet lower than last year at this time.

Garrison releases averaged 15,000 cfs during September. They were reduced from 17,000 cfs to 12,000 cfs around mid-September, and then to 11,500 cfs on Oct 2. They will remain at that rate until late November. Lake Sakakawea dropped one foot during September, ending the month at elevation 1813.3 feet msl. It will drop one foot in October, ending the month 25 feet below average. The reservoir is 8 feet lower than last year at this time.

Fort Peck releases averaged 6,100 cfs in September. They were dropped to 4,000 cfs around mid-September, and will remain near that level through late November. The reservoir fell more than one foot during September, ending the month at elevation 2199.8 feet msl. It will remain near its current elevation through October, ending the month 34 feet below average. Last year at this time it was 10 feet higher.

The six main stem power plants generated 507 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity in September, 54 percent of normal. The forecast for 2004 energy production is 6.5 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](http://www.nwd.usace.army.mil).**

## MISSOURI RIVER MAIN STEM RESERVOIR DATA

	Pool Elevation (ft msl)		Water in Storage - 1,000 acre-feet		
	On Sep 30	Change in Sep	On Sep 30	% of 1967-2003 Average	Change in Sep
Fort Peck	2199.8	-1.1	8,869	58	-152
Garrison	1813.4	-1.0	11,645	61	-269
Oahe	1573.2	+1.1	10,316	58	+204
Big Bend	1420.1	-0.2	1,689	98	-10
Fort Randall	1345.5	-7.3	2,796	82	-555
Gavins Point	1207.1	-0.2	386	89	-7
			35,801	62	-789

## WATER RELEASES AND ENERGY GENERATION FOR SEPTEMBER

	Average Release in 1,000 cfs	Releases in 1,000 af	Generation in 1,000 MWh
Fort Peck	6.1	361	51
Garrison	15.0	894	117
Oahe	12.9	768	94
Big Bend	12.4	737	45
Fort Randall	22.9	1365	137
Gavins Point	24.7	1471	65
			507