

System Administrator

From: Barfield, David <David.Barfield@KDA.KS.GOV>
Sent: Tuesday, November 09, 2010 2:41 PM
To: Aaron Thompson
Subject: Lower Republican IMP
Attachments: Republican River Letter final.doc

Aaron,

Good to see you and talk to you last week at the Kansas Water Authority meeting.

Can you tell me if the Lower Republican NRD has gone public with their draft IMP? We would like to see it when it becomes available.

FYI, we have been working with our Governor's office on response to Governor Heineman's letter. Attached is the version I expect Governor Parkinson to sign on Friday when he gets back from a trip. I expect we will be emailing the signed letter to the Bureau on Friday.

Thanks.

David

November X, 2010

Michael L. Connor, Commissioner
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Commissioner:

It has come to my attention that the Governor of the State of Nebraska sent you a letter dated October 14, 2010 expressing his concerns related to testimony offered by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Nebraska-Kansas Area Office at two public hearings in June, 2010 regarding Nebraska's proposed integrated water management plans in the Republican River Basin. While I generally agree with Governor Heineman that comments should be based on sound science and an understanding of the facts, it is also my opinion that the testimony at issue is correct in recognizing that the need exists to better protect Reclamation projects in the Republican River Basin from unchecked or poorly controlled groundwater pumping in Nebraska.

The State of Kansas depends on the proper functioning of the federal water projects in the Basin to receive waters allocated to Kansas under the Republican River Compact. Kansas water officials contend that Nebraska's proposal to allow groundwater use to continue at current levels will not result in compact compliance and will pose a threat to the viability of federal projects in the Basin. In their view, input offered to date by regional Reclamation officials regarding proposed integrated management plans has been measured, carefully expressed and based on a sound technical understanding of the subjects addressed.

It is our hope that Governor Heineman's letter will not deter Reclamation from protecting its facilities and programs in the Republican River Basin. The State of Kansas stands ready to assist Reclamation in this very necessary endeavor, as appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Parkinson,
Governor

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cc: Dave Heineman, Governor of Nebraska
Kansas Congressional Delegation
Mike Ryan, Regional Director, USBR, High Plains Region
Aaron Thompson, Manager, USBR, Nebraska-Kansas Office
David Barfield, Kansas Chief Engineer