

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Great Plains Region
Nebraska-Kansas Area Office
P. O. Box 1607
Grand Island, Nebraska 68802-1607

NK-500

FEB 1 4 2003

Governor Mike Johanns Governor's Office Capitol Building Lincoln, NE 68509

Subject: Drought Assistance Requests

Dear Governor Johanns:

Title I of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, PL 102-250 (Act) provides broad authority to the Secretary of the Interior to utilize the facilities of the Federal reclamation program and the resources of the Department of the Interior to address drought conditions in the western States.

Section 104 of the Act says in part: "The programs and authorities established under this title shall become operative in any Reclamation State only after the Governor or Governors (Tribal Leaders) of the affected State or States (Tribe or Tribes) ... has made a request for temporary drought assistance and the Secretary, or his/her appointee, has determined that such temporary assistance is merited ..."

In order for any State to receive funding assistance, they must abide by a condition of PL 102-250 that requires the State submit a letter to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation or the Secretary of the Interior requesting drought assistance.

The State of Nebraska was approved for emergency drought assistance through Title I by the Commissioner's letter of August 11, 2000. States and/or Tribes requesting assistance under Title I are now required to submit a new request each year. The State of Nebraska must submit a new request for drought assistance for 2003.

Enclosed is a sample letter that can be used to request drought assistance through Title I of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act.

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Potential drought relief measures may be selected for funding under this law among projects from all agencies approved for assistance. States or Tribes applying for drought assistance should also begin to develop a list of potential drought relief projects and rank these projects according to the States or Tribes needs. In your response to the Commissioner, please provide a courtesy copy of your letter to our Regional Director, Maryanne Bach, in Billings, Montana.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Kube or Jack Wergin of this office at (308) 389-4622, extension 201.

Sincerely,

Fred R. Ore Area Manager

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:

Roger Patterson Nebraska Department of Natural Resources PO Box 94676 Lincoln, NE 68509

hc w/enclosure:

Regional Director, Billings, MT

Attention: GP-2500 (Rick DeVore)

Area Manager, WYAO, Mills, WY

Attention: WY-1000 (John Lawson) Area Manager, NKAO, Grand Island, NE

Attention: NK-100 (Stephen Ronshaugen)

NK-500 (Michael Kube)

RES-3.10

Sample letter to be used by Governors or Tribal Leaders to request drought assistance under PL 102-250

Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
Main Interior Building
Room 7060-MIB
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240-0001

Dear Commissioner:

Title I of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 provides broad authority to the Secretary of the Interior to utilize the facilities of the Federal reclamation program and the resources of the Department of the Interior to address drought conditions in the western States.

Section 104 of the Act says in part; "The programs and authorities established under this title shall become operative in any Reclamation State only after the Governor of the affected State has made a request for temporary drought assistance and the Secretary, or his/her appointee, has determined that such temporary assistance is merited..."

Pursuant to Section 104 of the Act, I am requesting temporary drought assistance to the State of _____ and urge that you determine that such assistance is merited. The resources of my Office and my State stand ready to assist you in making such a determination.

I am looking forward to working together with you to solve the problems imposed by drought conditions. Please do not hesitate in contacting my Office when I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Governor

cc. Maryanne Bach, Regional Director Great Plains Regional Office PO Box 36900 Billings, MT 59107-6900