



IN REPLY REFER TO:

## 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 14 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.



**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