

Gov., Larry, Aaron, PRO, Agt
NR - PPI
F-Drought



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, D.C. 20240

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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ADM-1.10

AUG 19 2005

GOVERNORS OFFICE

AUG 15 2005

RECEIVED

Honorable David Heineman
Governor of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848

Dear Governor Heineman:

Thank you for your May 5, 2005, letter in which you request assistance pursuant to Title I of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991. I apologize for the delay in responding to your request. I have consulted with my staff, and we concur with your drought declaration.

This year, the Drought Relief program provided \$179,500 in funding to the Department of Natural Resources for the Republican Basin Irrigation Districts' incentive plan to leave irrigation storage water in designated reservoirs for future year uses. The Drought Relief Act provides an excellent opportunity for the Bureau of Reclamation to assist Nebraska during these times of devastating drought in much of the West.

Now that you have requested assistance, Reclamation will consider specific requests on a case-by-case basis to determine their merit. Ms. Alice Johns, Area Manager for the Nebraska-Kansas Area Office in Grand Island, Nebraska, will work with you to select appropriate projects for funding consideration. She can be reached at 308-389-5301. You may also contact Mr. Rick DeVore, Regional Drought Coordinator, in our Great Plains Regional Office in Billings, Montana, for information concerning these drought funds. Mr. DeVore may be reached at 406-247-7757.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

John W. Keys, III
Commissioner