

Meeting with NE Department of Natural Resources
November 5, 2009 - Grand Island NE

Attendees: Aaron Thompson, Marv Swanda, Craig Scott, Jack Wergin,
DNR: Jim Schneider, James Williams, Jason Kepler

- Generally, NE receives about 50% of the basin water supply
- After reviewing historic water supplies in the basin, DNR expects about 300 kAF to available in the basin for NE's use
- Recently, NE groundwater CU has averaged about 200 kAF per year
- DNR is uncertain where CU from past GW pumping will level off
- DNR is certain that long term reductions in groundwater CU is needed to maintain compliance in dry years
- How much supply does surface water need to be viable?
- DNR laid out the forecast method that will be used to forecast basin water supply for dry year compliance -
- DNR has developed a simplified approach to predict NE's Compact balance if the following year is a dry year
- DNR determined that 7 out of the 19 trigger years, that would of occurred since 1976, would have of resulted in curtailments if no other plans were in place
- DNR believes that the forecast system and new plan during dry years will force long term reductions in groundwater consumptive use
- Public meetings will be held across the basin during Nov 16-18
- The annual forecast meeting will be held in Curtis, NE on Dec. 3, 2009
- DNR is still uncertain of the legal issues that may arise if the new compliance plan is implemented
 - Does DNR have authority to prevent BOR from delivering storage water under our federal contracts?
 - Would a call at HCL to bypass inflows from upstream reservoirs be a "selective call"?
- DNR is still evaluating the affects of delivering storage water to federal canals on Compact accounting