



# News Release

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Northwestern Division  
Public Affairs Office

12565 West Center Road  
Omaha, Nebraska 68144-3869

Phone: (402) 697-2552  
Fax: (402) 697-2554

Contact: Paul Johnston  
(402) 697-2552  
Larry Cieslik  
(402) 697-2675  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monthly News Release

OMAHA – Drought continues to plague the Missouri River basin. June’s runoff above Sioux City, Iowa, was only 4.4 million acre-feet (MAF), 82 percent of normal.

“Although conditions are somewhat better than last year, our annual runoff forecast above Sioux City is still only 20 MAF, compared to a normal of 25.2 MAF,” said Larry Cieslik, Chief of the Missouri River Basin Water Management Division in Omaha. Through June, runoff totaled 12.9 MAF, compared to 9.9 MAF last year.

“Localized rains during June allowed releases from Gavins Point to remain at 26,000 cfs,” said Cieslik. Releases were set at that rate in late April, as part of the plan agreed to by the Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding operation of the reservoirs during the nesting season of the protected interior least terns and piping plovers.

“Under our agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, releases will remain steady until increases are needed to meet downstream flow targets. Without additional rainfall in the next two weeks, we may have to increase Gavins Point releases above 26,000 cfs to meet flow targets from Nebraska City to Kansas City due to falling tributary flows,” said Cieslik.

Because the reservoirs are low, river flows remain at minimum service levels, in accordance with the current Master Manual. The navigation season will be shortened 6 days to make up for the additional water released last winter for downstream water intakes.

Mountain snowpack is nearly melted and will continue to come into the reservoirs over the next two weeks. "Runoff from the snowpack helped increase storage by 1.2 MAF during June," said Cieslik. System storage ended June at 45.1 MAF. Last year at this time it was 48.8 MAF. The amount of water currently stored in the reservoirs is nearly 16 MAF below average.

Lewis and Clark Lake will gradually drop to elevation 1206 feet msl during July.

Fort Randall releases averaged 24,400 cfs in June. In July, they will range from 24,000 to 26,000 cfs as needed to maintain the level of Lewis and Clark Lake. Lake Francis Case ended the month at 1352.8 feet msl, the lowest level ever recorded for the end of June. It will gradually rise, ending the month near elevation 1355 feet msl.

Lake Oahe dropped more than a foot during June, ending the month at elevation 1587.4 feet msl. Because of diminished inflow, it will drop more than two feet during July, ending the month 22 feet below normal. The reservoir is 5 feet lower than last year at this time.

Garrison releases averaged 21,300 cfs during June. They will be limited to 21,500 cfs during July and August to protect tern and plover nests below the dam. They will drop to 13,000 cfs in September. Lake Sakakawea climbed more than four feet during June, ending the month at 1827 feet msl. It will drop less than one foot during July, ending the month nearly 16 feet below normal. The lake is 4 feet lower than last year at this time.

Fort Peck releases were cut from 9,000 cfs to 8,500 cfs on June 18, and then to 8,000 cfs on July 3. They will remain at 8,000 cfs during the summer. The lake gained less than one foot in June, ending the month at elevation 2213.6 feet msl. It will drop less than two feet in July, ending the month 25 feet below normal. Last year at this time it was 6 feet higher.

The six main stem powerplants generated 760 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity in June, 85 percent of normal. The forecast for 2003 energy production is 7.6 billion kWh compared to a normal of 10 billion kWh.

## MISSOURI RIVER MAIN STEM RESERVOIR DATA

	Pool Elevation (ft msl)		Water in Storage - 1,000 acre-feet		
	On June 30	Change in Jun	On June 30	% of 1967-2002 Average	Change in Jun
Fort Peck	2213.6	+0.7	11,159	70	+105
Garrison	1827.0	+4.3	15,101	77	+1,187
Oahe	1587.4	-1.3	13,437	69	-223
Big Bend	1420.3	+0.3	1,705	99	+24
Fort Randall	1352.8	+0.9	3,359	86	+81
Gavins Point	1206.6	+0.9	374	96	+25
			45,135	74	+1,199

## WATER RELEASES AND ENERGY GENERATION FOR JUNE

	Average Release in 1,000 cfs	Releases in 1,000 af	Generation in 1,000 MWh
Fort Peck	8.7	518	79
Garrison	21.3	1265	175
Oahe	25.6	1524	207
Big Bend	23.7	1408	84
Fort Randall	24.4	1453	148
Gavins Point	26.0	1545	67
			760