



# News Release

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## Water Management Monthly News Release

OMAHA – Rain, late season mountain snow, and drought conservation measures continue to take some of the sting out of the 6-year drought in the Missouri River basin. Reservoir levels have been climbing and the shortening of this year’s navigation season will not be as drastic as previously anticipated.

The levels of the three big reservoirs in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota each continued to rise in June. Levels at Fort Peck and Oahe were steady to rising during the primary fish fish spawns. Since a 2-foot decline early in its forage fish spawn, the level of Garrison reservoir has increased 9 feet. Runoff in June above Sioux City, Iowa, was 5.7 million acre feet (MAF), 106 percent of normal and the largest since 1999.

“While runoff has improved, the drought is not yet over,” said Brig. Gen. William Grisoli, Northwestern Division Engineer. “The three large reservoirs remain many feet below normal levels. Total storage on July 1 was 38.4 MAF, which means the 2005 navigation will be shortened 48 days rather than the 61 days anticipated earlier in the year. Minimum service flows will be continued throughout the season and then further reduced in October and November.”

Flow support for the commercial navigation season will end as follows:

Sioux City, Iowa	October 4
Omaha, Nebraska	October 6
Nebraska City, Nebraska	October 8
Kansas City, Missouri	October 10
Mouth near St. Louis, Missouri	October 14

The runoff forecast for 2005 has improved to 19.9 MAF, 79 percent of normal. This is an increase from the June forecast of 16.6 MAF. Normal runoff is 25.2 MAF.

Releases from Gavins Point Dam in June averaged 21,600 cubic feet per second (cfs), well below the long term average of 31,100 cfs. Gavins Point reservoir will remain near elevation 1206 feet above mean sea level (msl) during July.

Fort Randall releases averaged 16,500 cfs in June. They will range from 19,000 cfs to 22,000 cfs in July as needed to maintain Gavins Point reservoir near its desired elevation. Fort Randall reservoir ended June at 1356.8 feet msl. It will gradually decline to 1355 feet during July.

Big Bend reservoir will remain in its normal elevation range of 1420 to 1421 feet. Releases will be adjusted to meet hydropower needs.

Oahe reservoir climbed more than one foot during June, ending the month at elevation 1577.6 feet msl. It will remain at that level through the month, ending July 29 feet below average. The reservoir is more than a foot higher than last year at this time.

Garrison releases averaged 15,000 cfs during July, compared to the average of 23,600 cfs. Releases will remain near 15,500 cfs during July. Garrison reservoir rose more than 6 feet in June, ending the month at elevation 1814.9 feet msl. After declining in April and early May to move water into Oahe to support the fish spawn there, Garrison has risen 9 feet. The reservoir will decline less than a foot in July, ending the month 26 feet below average. The reservoir is one foot lower than last year at this time.

Fort Peck releases averaged 5,400 cfs in June, compared to the normal of 10,200 cfs. They were increased to 7,000 cfs early this month. The reservoir rose nearly 3.5 feet in June, ending the month at elevation 2203 feet msl. It will decline about a foot during July, ending the month 33 feet below average. Last year at this time it was less than one foot higher.

The six main stem power plants generated 494 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity in June, 56 percent of normal. The forecast for 2005 energy production is 5.6 billion kWh, compared to a normal of 10 billion kWh.

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**Daily and forecasted reservoir and river information is available on the water management section of the Northwestern Division homepage at [www.nwd.usace.army.mil](http://www.nwd.usace.army.mil).**

## MISSOURI RIVER MAIN STEM RESERVOIR DATA

	Pool Elevation (ft msl)		Water in Storage - 1,000 acre-feet		
	On June 30	Change in June	On June 30	% of 1967-2004 Average	Change in June
Fort Peck	2203.0	+3.4	9,448	60	+513
Garrison	1814.9	+6.1	12,026	62	+1,361
Oahe	1577.6	+1.1	11,214	59	+234
Big Bend	1420.0	-0.6	1,625	94	-32
Fort Randall	1356.8	+2.1	3,683	94	+186
Gavins Point	1206.3	+0.4	366	94	+10
			38,362	64	+2,272

## 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	5.4	319	46
Garrison	15.0	893	115
Oahe	15.4	916	115
Big Bend	15.1	899	53
Fort Randall	16.5	982	103
Gavins Point	21.6	1,287	61
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