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## MRBC chairman resigns effective Oct. 26

John W. Neuberger, chairman of the 10-state Missouri River Basin Commission since May 1972, has resigned effective Oct. 26.

The resignation came at the request of Interior Secretary Cecil D. Andrus, chairman of the U.S. Water Resources Council.

The White House indicated a successor would be named in 30 to 60 days, Neuberger said.

MRBC Vice-Chairman John E. Acord of Montana will oversee the transition. The MRBC vice-chairman is elected from among state members on the commission.

Neuberger has been named by Nebraska Gov. J. James Exon to become director of the Nebraska Department of Water Resources. He will assume that position Nov. 1.

The Nebraska department has duties and powers to conduct hearings and issue permits in connection with applications for surface water rights, measure and keep records on streamflows, register wells, examine and approve plans for dams and reservoirs, issue permits for obstructions to the floodways and flood plains, and enforce water rights during times of drought and short supplies.



Neuberger

## Andrus extends comment time on water policy option papers until Nov. 20

Interior Secretary Cecil D. Andrus, as chairman of the Water Resources Council, has announced extension of the closing date to Nov. 20 for receiving public comment on water resources option papers published in the Federal Register July 15 and 25.

Previous deadlines set for submission of public comments on the option papers were Aug. 9 and Sept. 15.

Acting in response to congressional and gubernatorial requests to the President, Secretary Andrus in August extended for 90 days the time for completing a national water policy review now underway. The secretary expects to submit water policy recommendations to the President in February.

The water policy review is being conducted by task groups under the direction of the policy committee chairman, Guy R. Martin, assistant secretary of the interior for land and water resources.

The U.S. Senate Oct. 12 gave unanimous approval to a resolution calling for a moratorium on implementing any new national water policy regulations. The resolution also establishes a procedure for state comments and recommendations to be submitted for congressional hearings on the issue.

Sen. Carl Curtis, R-Neb., who introduced the resolution, said, "The states want and are entitled to a greater voice in such national policy matters, and my resolution would put the administration on notice that the congress intends to provide that voice."

The resolution had 35 cosponsors including 13 of the 20 senators representing Missouri River Basin states.



## Missouri Basin water resources plan, priorities subjects of Nov. meeting

Distribution of the first "Missouri River Basin Water Resources Plan," and approval of a draft report of Missouri River Basin water resources priorities are expected at the 22nd regular quarterly meeting of the Missouri River Basin Commission (MRBC).

The meeting will be held Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 2-3, at the New Tower Hotel Courts in Omaha.

The "Missouri River Basin Water Resources Plan," was approved for printing at the last quarterly meeting after an official 90-day review by the governors of the 10 Missouri River Basin states and by the heads of the 10 federal agencies which are MRBC members.

The plan is the first adopted by the commission for the Missouri River Basin. It will be subject to continuous updating and revision with a report scheduled to be published every two years.

### Plan available

*The press run of "Missouri River Basin Water Resources Plan" was 3,500 copies. The report will be available to the public at no charge for as long as copies last.*

Closely tied to the plan is the commission's annual schedule of water resources priorities. A draft report on the 1977 priorities will be presented for approval during the commission's Wednesday afternoon session.

The water resources priorities will include programs and projects as well as planning and research proposals.

Other business will include a report Thursday by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on its study of ground water in the Madison Formation underlying portions of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska.

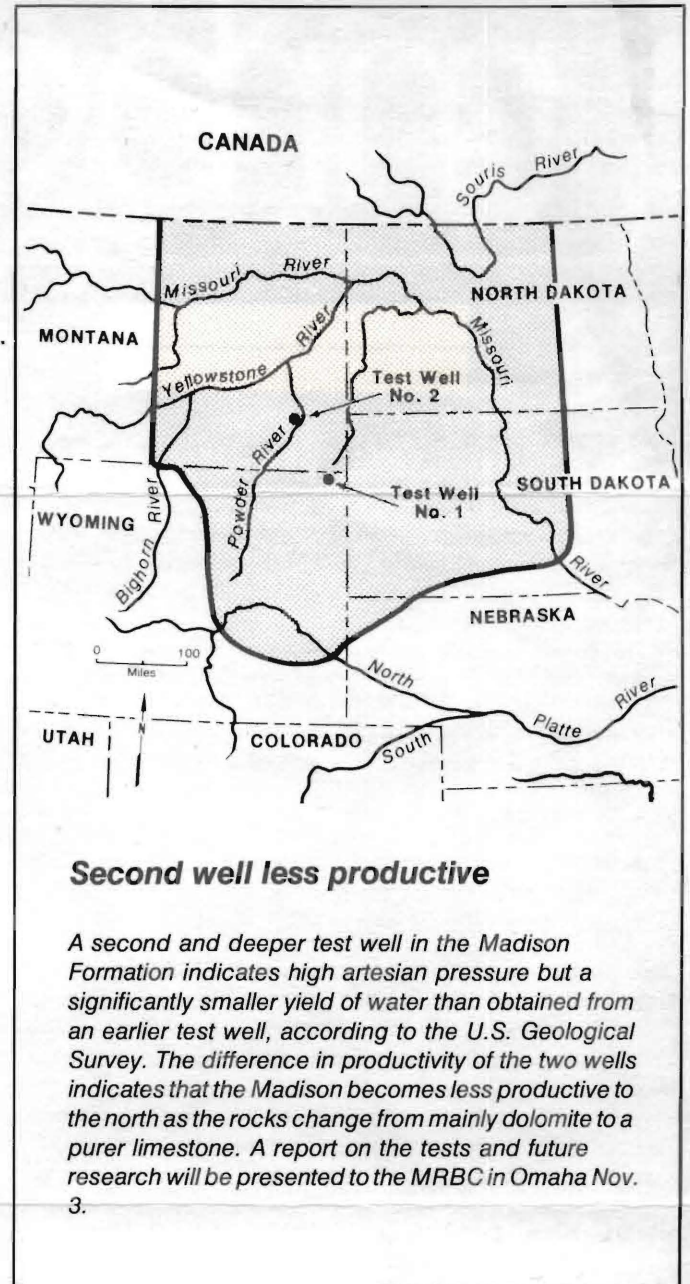
The USGS report will be followed by a discussion led by Vern Butler, South Dakota commissioner, of forming an ad hoc committee on an interstate ground water compact.

A report by the Cooperative Instream Flow Service Group and a discussion of the annual MRBC audit also are on the agenda.

## Interior announces \$70 million drought relief fund

The Department of the Interior has cleared the way to make \$70 million available to irrigation districts, Indian tribes, individual irrigators and state water resource agencies for drought relief.

The funds would come from money previously earmarked for water bank purposes by the Emergency Drought Act of 1977, but freed for drought relief and other use through an amendment to that act signed by President Carter Aug. 17.



Congress authorized \$100 million for fiscal 1977 under the Emergency Drought Act of 1977, but \$75 million of this was set aside for the water bank loan program, through which irrigators are able to purchase available water supplies.

Demands for the water bank funds have been less than \$5 million this year, so Congress lifted the restriction by amending the Drought Act and thus made the \$70 million available.



## MRBC planning activities grow

(A special report by Carroll Hamon, director of planning and technical services)

The number of planning activities in which the Missouri River Basin Commission has become involved continues to grow. There are now more than 10 separate commission planning programs either being developed or underway.

Several of the commission's planning programs are cyclical, producing reports annually or biennially. These include the comprehensive, coordinated, joint planning (CCJP) program; state and federal program review; priorities; and electric power.

The first CCJP report, the "Missouri River Basin Water Resources Plan," was finalized August of this year, and will be in print by the end of October. The report presents the commission's water and related land resources plan for the entire basin.

The priorities program and program review are conducted annually. The program review, which will be printed in November, presents a compendium of water and related land resources programs programmed by state and federal member agencies during the next five years.

Through the priorities program, which is now entering its fifth year, proposed state, federal and other significant water and related land programs and projects are given implementation priorities for the coming four fiscal years. The next priorities report will be available in January 1978.

The electric power report presents an examination of present and future electric power generation and needs in the Missouri River Basin, with emphasis on the use of water. The program's second annual report will be published in November of this year.

Other commission planning programs, rather than producing periodic reports, will result in development of a single report or set of reports. Two such programs which are underway are the James River Basin Subregional Analysis and the Middle-Lower Missouri Flood Plain Study.

The James River Basin study, for which a plan of study is now being prepared, will be conducted during the next two years. At the end of the study, a comprehensive planning report will be prepared to include recommendations for future action which will become part of the commission's comprehensive, coordinated, joint plan.



Hamon

The Flood Plain Study is directed at recommending compatible flood plain legislation for management of the Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam. Recently, through this program the commission has undertaken a pilot study from St. Joseph, Mo. to the mouth of the Little Blue River in Missouri. This study will provide a general assessment of the impacts associated with alternative floodway widths. It is anticipated that the pilot study will provide the basis for the MRBC to recommend interim policy guidelines for flood plain management in this reach of the Missouri River.

Planning programs which the commission is just now getting underway include the Upper Missouri Level B Study and an assessment of water needs for new types of coal development technologies. The commission also may undertake during the next few months an Upper Platte Water Management Program and a cooperative effort with the U.S. Geological Survey to develop a local coal planning assistance program.

While the commission is maintaining several programs and initiating others, one major commission program is winding down—the Yellowstone Level B Study in Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota, which is scheduled for completion by the end of this calendar year. Another program, the National Water Assessment, has just been completed after a 2 1/2-year effort.

## MRBC staff promotions announced

Three principal planners have been appointed on the planning and technical services staff of the Missouri River Basin Commission.

Each of the principal planners will lead a functional group within the MRBC staff, according to Planning and Technical Services Director Carroll Hamon.

The new principals and the groups they will lead are Bill Hutchinson, comprehensive planning; Don Ohnstad, special studies; and Gerald Zimmerman, technical services.

Each of the planners previously had been senior river basin planners on the MRBC staff and have had several years experience with the commission's programs.

Hamon said the promotions fill staff vacancies in comprehensive planning and technical services that have existed for some time. The third group—special studies—was set up to carry out work created by an increasing number of special studies and projects.



Hutchinson



Ohnstad



Zimmerman



## New commissioners, alternate join MRBC

One state and four federal agencies have named new commissioners to the Missouri River Basin Commission (MRBC).

The new Minnesota commissioner is Thomas J. Kalitowski, chairman of the Minnesota Water Planning Board.

New federal commissioners are William O. Anderson, administrator, Region VII, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Thomas J. Higgins, principal regional official,



Kalitowski



Higgins

Region VII, Department of Health, Education and Welfare; Cmdr. James G. Glasgow, ports and waterways liaison officer, Second Coast Guard District; and Stephen L.R. McNichols, secretarial representative, Department of Commerce.

Anderson and Higgins are from Kansas City, Commander Glasgow is from St. Louis, and McNichols, former governor of Colorado, is from Denver.

Montana has named a new alternate to the commission—Gary Fritz, chief of the Water Planning Bureau.



Commander Glasgow



McNichols

## Wyoming judge upholds corps authority

(From the Omaha World-Herald)

A federal judge in Wyoming has upheld the Army Corps of Engineers' authority to regulate an interstate stream.

U.S. District Court Judge Ewing Kerr of Cheyenne rejected a State of Wyoming contention that the corps overstepped its authority in requiring backers of the proposed Greyrocks dam and reservoir on the Laramie River near Wheatland to obtain a corps dredge and fill permit.

Kerr ruled in favor of the corps, saying Wyoming's challenge flew in the face of decisions in other jurisdictions upholding the corps' authority to control placement of materials in most inland waterways, the Associated Press reported.

The regulations were issued after environmentalists successfully sued the corps for failing to enforce the new law's restrictions on dredging and filling navigable waterways.

The state had claimed that most of Wyoming's rivers and streams were not navigable and should not be included under the corps' authority. A state attorney argued that the corps wrote the regulations so broadly that even farmers and ranchers seeking permission to dig an irrigation ditch on their property would be required to apply for a permit from the corps.

The corps district headquarters in Omaha hasn't ruled on whether the Greyrocks project will receive a permit pending a State of Nebraska lawsuit questioning the projects impacts downstream.

The reservoir would furnish water to a 1.5-billion kilowatt, coal-fired generating plant proposed by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, N.D.



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