

Doc.  
y 3.

M69/2  
3/6/5



# basin bulletin

Vol. 6, No. 5

July-August 1979

## MRBC to meet in Omaha Oct. 31, Nov. 1

The Missouri River Basin Commission (MRBC) will hold its 30th regular quarterly meeting Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, in Omaha.

The meeting originally was scheduled Nov. 7-8, but the date was changed to avoid a conflict with the National Water Resources Association, scheduled to meet Nov. 4-8 in Denver.

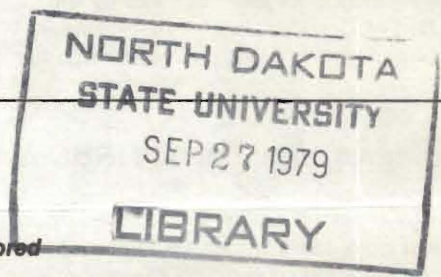
Location for the state-federal MRBC meeting will be the New Tower Inn, 78th and Dodge Streets.

Millard W. Hall, the commission's presidentially appointed chairman, said the meeting will include a progress report on

implementation of President Carter's water policy reforms. The Department of the Interior scheduled five regional workshops in September to review and obtain public comments on the water policy reforms.

Hall said he has invited John Cunningham, who heads the Water Policy Implementation Coordination Group in the Interior Department, to address the commission's noon luncheon Oct. 31.

The Missouri River Basin Commission coordinates and conducts water resources planning in the Missouri River Basin. The 10 states in the basin and 10 federal agencies with interests in water resources are members.



### Acord honored

John E. Acord of Montana, left, who completed a two-year term as vice chairman of the Missouri River Basin Commission, was honored Aug. 1 in Calgary, Alta., by a plaque presented by MRBC Chairman Millard W. Hall, right. The newly elected vice chairman, Vern Fahy of North Dakota, looks on.

The plaque recognized Acord's service as vice chairman since 1977 and contained special recognition for his year as acting chairman prior to the appointment of Hall.

## Water assessment summary available

Summary reports of the U.S. Water Resources Council's Second National Water Assessment are available to the public.

"This national assessment presents for the first time nationally consistent current and projected water use and supply information by region and subregion for the entire United States," Interior Secretary Cecil D. Andrus, chairman of the council, said in a transmittal letter to President Carter.

"This information will provide basic data for the Administration and Congress to decide water policy and program direction," Andrus said.

The report is a summary of "The Nation's Water Resources — 1975-2000," a four-volume study prepared by the council.

The 86-page publication covers water supply and water use and identifies critical water problems, including surface-water supply, overdraft of ground water, pollution, flooding, erosion and sedimentation, dredging, drainage of wetlands, and degradation of bay, estuary and coastal waters.

"Significant achievements have been made in preserving water and harnessing its power," the report states. "Although interest in water conservation and environmental protection is growing, still greater efforts are needed. Without intensified dedication to careful management of water resources, pressures from our technological society will continue to deplete and degrade the nation's water supply."

The summary report is for sale for \$3.25 by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The stock number is 052-045-0051-7.

## FEMA becomes 10th federal MRBC member

Federal agency membership on the Missouri River Basin Commission is back to 10 with the addition of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

FEMA membership was effective July 15 as a result of an amendment to Executive Order 11658, which determines the membership of the commission.

Federal agency membership on the commission had dropped to nine with the consolidation of the Federal Power Commission and the Energy Research and Development Administration into the Department of Energy.

Flood plain management is the commission activity with which FEMA is expected to become most closely involved, since the Federal Insurance Administration, the agency that administers the nation's flood insurance program, is now a part of FEMA.



**Fahy new MRBC  
vice chairman**

*Vern Fahy, chief engineer for the North Dakota Water Commission, is the new Missouri River Basin Commission vice chairman.*

*Fahy, who was elected to a one-year term from among state members, assumed the position July 1. He has served as Gov. Arthur Link's representative to the commission since 1973.*

## Council to meet with RBC's

The U.S. Water Resources Council (WRC) will meet in Minneapolis Nov. 13.

The regional WRC meeting will be in conjunction with regular quarterly meetings of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission and the Great Lakes Basin Commission.

Alternates, most at the assistant secretary level, will be attending the WRC meeting, chaired by Guy Martin, assistant interior secretary for land and water resources.

An agenda for the WRC meeting will be announced Oct. 5, a WRC spokesman said.

## Navigation releases cut

Col. C. A. Selleck Jr., Missouri River Division Engineer, announced Aug. 20 that releases from the Corps of Engineers' main-stem reservoirs during the remainder of the navigation season would be less than earlier reported. However, the releases would still be above the levels needed for full service operation of the Missouri River.

The change in operation is the result of below normal precipitation and runoff in the upper basin during the months of June and July. This caused the main-stem reservoirs' system storage to crest at 67.4 million acre-feet, nearly two million acre-feet less than previously forecasted.

Selleck said that the cutback in the release volume will not affect an earlier corps decision to extend the navigation season for 10 days.

## MRBC to sponsor symposium on identifying irrigated lands

A symposium on the identification of irrigated lands using remote sensing techniques will be held Nov. 15-16 in Sioux Falls, S.D.

The symposium will be sponsored by the Missouri River Basin Commission (MRBC) in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey's EROS Data Center.

The symposium will be one of the first activities of the commission's proposed three-year Missouri River Basin Hydrology Study, scheduled to begin Oct. 1.

MRBC Chairman Millard W. Hall said the symposium will focus on emerging needs for identifying irrigated lands and on demonstrated capabilities of remote sensing in that area.

Hall said the symposium also will permit an exchange of information between researchers and users of irrigation data.

"Irrigation is by far the largest water use in the Missouri River Basin," Hall said, "accounting for 90 percent of all water consumed.

"Estimates vary," he said, "but by 1975 there may have been as many as 11.5 million acres irrigated in the region with a resulting water consumption of 16.1 million acre-feet.

"By contrast, municipal, industrial, domestic, livestock, mining, steam electric generation, and other water uses consumed only 1.5 million acre-feet," Hall said.

"One purpose of the commission's Missouri River Basin Hydrology Study will be to more accurately estimate the amount of water consumed by irrigation and to predict its effect to the hydrologic system," Hall said.

Some 60 to 100 participants are expected at the two-day symposium at the Sioux Falls Downtown Holiday Inn. The program will include a tour and demonstration at the EROS Data Center.

For additional information contact the Missouri River Basin Commission, Suite 403, 10050 Regency Circle, Omaha, NE 68114. Phone (402) 397-5714.

## Water contract authorized for N.D. gasification project

The Department of the Interior has authorized a water service contract for a proposed coal gasification plant in western North Dakota.

The water service contract between Interior's Bureau of Reclamation and ANG Coal Gasification Company would enable the company to use 17,000 acre-feet of water annually from Lake Sakakawea in its proposed plant to be located near Beula in Mercer County. Ultimately, the plant would produce 250 million standard-cubic-feet per day of synthetic high Btu gas.

The North Dakota State Water Commission had previously granted ANG the necessary state water permit.

If the company's proposal is approved, it would become the first commercial application of coal gasification technology in the United States. Water is an essential element in the coal gasification process.

Interior and reclamation have the principal responsibility for negotiating industrial water service arrangements from the Missouri River. Carter Administration water marketing activities have advanced an overall effort to obtain environmentally and socially acceptable industrial developments within the 10 Missouri Basin states, an interior news release stated.

The ANG plant, if finally approved, will be built about eight miles from the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. The contract contains provisions to protect Indian water rights and provides for Indian employment during construction and operation of the plant. Interior Secretary Cecil D. Andrus said that he will take steps as necessary to minimize social and environmental impacts on the Indian people.



**Canadian official addresses MRBC**

*Dennis A. Davis, director, Inland Waters Directorate, Fisheries and Environment Canada, addresses the 29th regular quarterly meeting of the Missouri River Basin Commission Aug. 2 in Calgary, Alta.*

*Davis' presentation was one of several on water and related land resources planning activities in Canada. Davis particularly stressed the efforts underway to manage water resources along the International Boundary.*

---

*MRBC Basin Bulletin is published bimonthly by the Missouri River Basin Commission, charged with coordination, planning and communication in the area of water and related land resources in accordance with P.L. 89-80. Address changes may be sent to the Missouri River Basin Commission, Suite 403, 10050 Regency Circle, Omaha, Nebraska 68114.*

## MRBC submits study proposals

The Missouri River Basin Commission has submitted two study proposals to the U.S. Water Resources Council for funding in fiscal year 1981.

The proposals are for a Lower Missouri Subbasin Level B Study in Missouri, Kansas and Iowa and for a special study of a management program for the Missouri River flood plain in South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri.

The proposal for the level B study requests funds totaling \$948,000 to be expended over two years. Of that amount, \$711,000 would be federal funds and the remainder provided as in-kind services from the three states included in the study.

The flood plain study proposal requests funds totaling \$400,000 to be expended over two years. The federal government is asked to provide \$300,000 and the five states asked to provide \$100,000 of in-kind services.

MRBC Chairman Millard W. Hall said the Lower Missouri Subbasin is in need of a water resources management plan.

"Currently there are 15 federal and state programs focusing on single-purpose water resource objectives in this subbasin," Hall said.

"When completed," Hall said, "this study will be an effective tool for implementing coordinated water resources activities throughout the subbasin."

Hall said the goal of the special flood plain study is to develop a compatible flood plain management program for the five states that recognizes each state's needs and desires, but which also is consistent with current federal policy.

"More than half the population of the Missouri River Basin is affected by management of the flood plain along the middle

and lower reaches of the Missouri River," the MRBC chairman said.

"Despite considerable federal investment in flood control works in the past, 1.3 million acres along the Missouri River in South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri are still susceptible to serious flooding," Hall said. "And there is a potential for those damages to increase in the future as a result of continued development in the floodway."

Because federal funding is limited for water resources planning activities, the two MRBC study proposals must compete with similar proposals from throughout the nation for Water Resources Council recommendation and for inclusion in the President's 1981 budget.

Hall said chances are very good that at least one of the two studies will be funded as proposed.

### Water policy workshops scheduled

Five regional workshops to review and obtain public comment on President Jimmy Carter's water policy reforms were scheduled during September.

Meeting locations and dates were Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 5; Knoxville, Tenn., Sept. 6; Portland, Ore., Sept. 11; Los Angeles, Calif., Sept. 12; and Albuquerque, N.M., Sept. 13.

For additional information contact John Cunningham, Water Policy Implementation Coordination Group, Room 4356, Department of the Interior, 18th & C Streets, N.W., Washington, DC 20240, or phone (202) 343-8058.



**Missouri River Basin Commission**  
Suite 403, 10050 Regency Circle  
Omaha, Nebraska 68114

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
MISSOURI RIVER BASIN COMMISSION  
FIRST CLASS



20

North Dakota State University  
Documents Librarian  
Fargo, ND 58105