



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors approved the 2015 irrigation schedule at Tuesday's monthly board meeting that sets the dates and amounts for water deliveries next summer.

The directors passed a resolution stating that irrigation deliveries will be 12 inches per acre over a 12-week or 8-week irrigation season (depending upon the customers' choice). Deliveries for the 12-week season will begin on June 8 and 8-week schedules will start on July 6. Irrigation deliveries are scheduled to end on Aug. 31.

Irrigation customers normally can receive up to 18 inches per acre, but were limited to nine inches per acre during the 2014 season. Improvements in water supply conditions over the past year allowed Central to increase the allocation for next year.

Under the 9-inch allocation this year and with contributions from timely rainfall and inflows that were near the 30-year average, Lake McConaughy declined by only seven feet this year from its peak elevation in early July. As of Sept. 2, the reservoir was at elevation 3237.0 feet, almost 12 feet higher than it was one year ago. The current volume of 1,021,400 acre-feet is about 58 percent of the reservoir's capacity.

The decision to allocate 12 inches of water to irrigation customers next year was based on current water supply conditions, long-term projections for inflows and precipitation, and recent trends for irrigation deliveries.

Also at Tuesday's board meeting:

- Staff informed the board that the Nebraska Department of Roads is making preparations for roadwork on Highway 6 & 34 near Central's administrative headquarters in Holdrege. The work will include adding barrier curbs and changing driveway access to the parking area on the south side of Central's building.
- The board approved changes to rental rates for property leased for agricultural purposes. Rates to lease pasture/hay property was set at \$20/acre; dryland agricultural ground, \$55/acre; gravity irrigated land, \$120/acre; and pivot irrigated land, \$170/acre.
- Jim and Cheryl Stubbendieck of Lincoln and Joe and Diane Jeffrey of rural Lexington attended the board meeting to express concerns and ask questions about the J-2 Regulating Reservoirs. Both couples own property in the proposed construction area. The reservoirs are part of a larger plan by the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program to enhance flows in the Platte River for the benefit of threatened and endangered species and to provide integrated water management benefits for Nebraska. Because of the proximity of the reservoir site to Central's hydro-irrigation facilities, Central will build, own and operate the reservoirs. The reservoirs will also allow for increased hydroelectric generation at Central's J-2 Hydroplant.
- Irrigation Division Manager Dave Ford said that irrigation deliveries will end on Sept. 8. Frequent rain over the past 10 days has significantly reduced irrigation demands over the closing days of irrigation season.

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