



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District expects that higher flows in the South Platte River from the storms in Colorado will reach Central's diversion dam at North Platte later this week. Central intends to divert as much as the water as possible into the Supply Canal, which will help re-fill lakes that were drawn down to help complete the irrigation season.

As a result, lake levels at Jeffrey, Midway and Johnson lakes will rise much faster than originally expected. Jeffrey Lake, which is about 20 miles downstream from the diversion dam, will reach normal operational levels about one day after the higher river flows reach North Platte, while Johnson Lake is likely to reach normal levels by early next week.

As yet, it is unknown how much water from the South Platte River will reach the diversion dam at North Platte, but the National Weather Service has made projections for up to 20,000 cubic feet per second by the end of the week. The South Platte River has been virtually dry for most of the summer, but flooding is likely to occur as the water moves from Colorado into Nebraska.

Releases of water from Lake McConaughy, which were being diverted into irrigation canals along the North Platte River between Kingsley Dam and Central's diversion dam to finish up the irrigation season, were reduced on Tuesday and will soon reach zero.

Water in excess of Central's diversion capabilities will be passed down the Platte River. The public is encouraged to monitor river conditions and forecasts provided by the National Weather Service (<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=gid>).

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(Note: Flows in the South Platte River cannot be stored in Lake McConaughy, which is on the North Platte River.)

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