



News Release

(HOLDREGE, Neb.) -- Outflows from Lake McConaughy have increased this week based on higher projections of inflows from upstream reservoirs in Wyoming. With the Wyoming reservoirs nearing full, inflows into Lake McConaughy are expected to peak around 9,000 cubic feet per second in the next several days and are expected to remain well above normal throughout the summer.

Outflows from Lake McConaughy will be increased today, Wednesday, May 25. As a result, expected flows in the North Platte River at North Platte will be about 3,700 cfs by Friday. During the 2011 flood, flows in the North Platte River at North Platte were over 5,000 cfs.

The latest increase in releases from Lake McConaughy will push the North Platte River at North Platte to moderate flood levels by Thursday. According to the National Weather Service: Moderate flood levels will cause flooding of low lying and agricultural land along the north bank of the North Platte River from Highway 83 to approximately 4 miles west of Highway 83 south of North River Road. Water encroachment into some residences and property begins along and south of North River Road. There will be water encroachment into low lying areas of Cody Park.

Lake McConaughy's elevation has risen with the increasing inflows to 3261.1 feet above sea level or 93 percent capacity. Releases continue to be less than inflows as Central tries to operate the reservoir in a manner that reduces peak flows downstream as much as possible. Central staff predicts Lake McConaughy to be at 100 percent capacity by mid-June.

Central continues to communicate with officials from the city of North Platte, the National Weather Service, the Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency, and other entities about the situation and how best to deal with the expected high flows.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Cory Steinke

Civil Engineer

Office: (308) 995-8601

E-mail: csteinke@cnppid.com