



News Release

HOLDREGE, Neb. - The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors approved a contract amendment at Tuesday's monthly board meeting with an engineering firm to perform additional studies related to a theoretical probable maximum flood event above Lake McConaughy.

A probable maximum flood, or PMF, is the largest flood resulting from a combination of the most severe meteorological and hydrologic conditions that could conceivably occur in a given area. A PMF is mainly used as a security assessment for existing dams in order to avoid dam failures and catastrophic floods.

The studies, which will be conducted by the engineering firm Mead & Hunt, are being done in accordance with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requirements.

In addition to consulting services, the firm will build and run a computer model to evaluate PMF data and subcontract with another firm to provide meteorological services related to storm patterns and how much rainfall could be expected to occur above Lake McConaughy in a given time period.

Gothenburg Division Manager Kevin Boyd said three similar studies have been completed in the past, but was informed by the FERC that new technology showed the potential for a higher PMF than was previously estimated.

"We think the higher PMF number is unrealistic and are confident that the additional studies will determine a more accurate estimate of how much rainfall is atmospherically possible in the watershed above Lake McConaughy," Boyd said.

The studies are expected to be completed in nine months at an estimated cost of \$154,500.

Also at Tuesday's monthly board meeting:

- The board received an update on the J-2 Regulating Reservoir project. Civil engineer Cory Steinke reported that Central completed the purchase of a house and a small parcel of land as approved at a special board meeting on Aug. 28. He also reported that further land acquisitions are on hold pending completion of an updated cost estimate for the project, which is currently underway.
- The board approved the purchase of a motor grader for the Bertrand Irrigation Office for \$222,318 (after trade-in) from NMC Caterpillar of Doniphan, Neb.
- The directors approved the final rules for the 2016 water leasing pilot program. The rules reduce the maximum number of acres that can be enrolled in the one-year program from 3,000 to 2,000. The rules will be included with irrigation invoices mailed to customers in October.
- With the 2015 irrigation season winding down and storage supplies at Lake McConaughy in good shape, Irrigation Division Manager Dave Ford said that full allocations will be available to irrigation customers in 2016. He added that the policy that allows one-year transfers of irrigation water will not be necessary next year.
- The board approved an extension of waterfowl blind leases for the seven blinds adjacent to Jeffrey Island between Overton and Lexington. The leases were due to expire at the end of 2015, but due to damage caused by high flows in the Platte River this year, hunters were uncertain as to whether to repair the blinds if they were not going to be able to use them beyond 2015. The extension grants the blind-owners an additional three years on their leases.
- Lake McConaughy was at elevation 3257.9 with a volume of 1.53 million acre-feet, or 88 percent of normal storage capacity. Inflows were 921 cubic feet per second, which is about 89 percent of normal for this time of year. Inflows for the water year, which ends Sept. 30, are more than 1.23 million acre-feet, compared with a historical median of 913,234 acre-feet.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 8, 2015

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