



## DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor

James B. Martin  
Executive Director

Dick Wolfe, P.E.  
Director/State Engineer

November 30, 2009

Aaron M. Thompson  
Area Manager, United States Bureau of Reclamation  
P.O. Box 1607  
Grand Island, Nebraska 68802

Re: Surface Water Administration on the Republican River in Colorado and Bonny Reservoir

Dear Aaron:

I am hereby requesting a release of water in accordance with my previous orders of August 14, 2008, October 25, 2008, and May 4, 2009. In my modified order of October 25<sup>th</sup> I stated:

“The Bureau of Reclamation may, in its discretion, retain all inflows and accretions to Bonny Reservoir and release such flows at such future time that allows the best chance for such flows to reach the gage at Benkelman.”

As with the previous orders our request for this release is two-fold. First, we believe that suitable stream conditions exist to allow the best chance for such releases to make it to the gage at Benkelman. This is driven in part by the sustained flow at the Benkelman gage over the past several weeks. Second, we have not made a release this late in the fall to evaluate its effectiveness. The results of these periodic releases will be evaluated to develop operation criteria for future releases so as to maximize their effectiveness of reaching the gage at Benkelman.

Therefore, we request that you make a release from the outlet of the dam of approximately 20 cfs for at least 30 days effective immediately. We will contact you toward the end of the 30 days to determine whether to continue releasing water, which will depend on the results during the first 30 days. We anticipate that we will make additional requests in the upcoming months based on our evaluation of all prior releases from the reservoir. We will notify you prior to any additional releases of water.

As you know we are still in negotiations with Kansas and Nebraska regarding our Compact Compliance Pipeline. Additionally, we are continuing our discussions with the Division of Wildlife and Division of Parks along with your agency and other Federal officials to evaluate the long term viability and future operations of Bonny Reservoir in the context of our compact obligations. The

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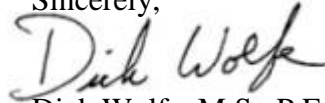
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issues surrounding Bonny Reservoir are complex. We are striving to identify ultimate solutions to these complex issues that mutually meet the objectives of all stakeholders.

The State appreciates your continued willingness to explore alternatives for solutions toward compliance with the Republican River Compact.

Sincerely,



Dick Wolfe, M.S., P.E.

State Engineer

Director, Division of Water Resources

Cc: Alexandra Davis, Assistant Director of the Department of Natural Resources  
Peter Ampe, First Assistant Attorney General  
Tim Monahan, First Assistant Attorney General  
Dean Winstanley, Director, Colorado Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
Tom Remington, Director, Colorado Division of Wildlife  
Bahman Hatami, Colorado Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
Grady McNeill, Colorado Division of Wildlife  
Mike Sullivan, Deputy State Engineer  
Jim Hall, Division 1 Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources  
Dave Nettles, Assistant Division 1 Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources  
Kevin Rein, Assistant State Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources  
Keith Vander Horst, Chief, Designated Basins Branch, Colorado Division of Water Resources  
Meg Sullivan, Engineering Advisor for RRCA  
Chris Grimes, Engineering Technician, Colorado Division of Water Resources  
Dave Keeler, Water Commissioner, Colorado Division of Water Resources  
Devin Ridnour, Assistant Water Commissioner, Colorado Division of Water Resources