

Notice of the Fourth Meeting of The Plenary Group and Public Workshop to develop A Proposal for a Spring Rise on the Missouri River

The public is invited to attend a meeting on the development of a proposal for the criteria for a “Spring Rise” from Gavin's Point Dam on the Missouri River. The fourth Missouri River Spring Rise Plenary Group Meeting will be held August 19th 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Best Western Ramkota, 3200 West Maple St., **Sioux Falls**, South Dakota.

Governor M. Michael Rounds, of South Dakota, will open the Plenary Session. It is expected that a final recommendation for a Spring Rise will be developed and approved by the Plenary Group, a broadly representative stakeholder body, at this meeting. The proposal will be submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their consideration and implementation.

A Spring Rise is a significant increase in flows in the early part of a water year that are generally designed to accomplish specific goals, some of which include shifting sedimentation to create new channels, pools, sandbars, and islands, which provide habitat for the Pallid Sturgeon; providing and transporting nutrients; and eliminating problematic plant life on river banks. A Spring Rise would be undertaken to comply with the 2003 Amended Biological Opinion published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“FWS”), and in an operating partnership on this effort by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the FWS.

The Missouri River Spring Rise Plenary Group is the central deliberating body of basin stakeholders for building a process to develop a Spring Rise proposal to be submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers by August and implementation in March 2006. The group is made up of approximately 50 representatives of federal agencies, tribes, states, and a wide range of interest groups. The goal of the planning effort is to involve basin stakeholders in the development of a proposal that complies with the Biological Opinion of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, while limiting negative effects on both upstream and downstream river users. The Plenary Group’s first meeting was held June 1-2 in St. Joseph, Missouri. The second meeting was held June 29-30 in Bismarck, North Dakota, and the third session on July 26-28th in Omaha, Nebraska.

All meetings have been and will be facilitated by a team assembled and managed by CDR Associates, an independent collaborative decision making and conflict management firm, which is a contractor of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. Information on the Spring Rise process is available at: <http://missouririver.ecr.gov>