



News Release

**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Northwestern Division
Public Affairs Office

12565 West Center Road
Omaha, Nebraska 68144-3869

Phone: (402) 697-2552
Fax: (402) 697-2554

Contact: Paul Johnston
(402) 697-2552
Rose Hargrave
(402) 697-2527

Date: May 27, 2005

Meeting Set to Develop Spring Rise Proposal

OMAHA – The public is invited to attend a meeting on June 1 – 2 on the development of a proposal for a “spring rise” from Gavins Point Dam on the Missouri River. The increase in releases from the dam is intended to benefit the pallid sturgeon, a fish protected under the Endangered Species Act.

The meeting will be held in the Blum Student Union at Missouri Western State College, 4525 Downs Drive in St. Joseph, Mo. The session on the first day will run from 1 to 6 p.m. and on the second day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A core planning group representing federal and state agencies and a diverse group of stakeholders met in Kansas City on May 9 – 10 to begin the process of developing a proposal for increasing Missouri River flows in the spring by releasing additional water from the reservoirs in order to comply with the 2003 Amended Biological Opinion published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The goal of the planning effort is to involve basin stakeholders in the development of a proposal that complies with the biological opinion while limiting risk to both upstream and downstream river users. A major part of the proposal will be the development of protocols that define the conditions when the rise would be conducted.

There will be additional technical group meetings in June to work on the proposal, with another meeting before the public on June 29 – 30 in Bismarck, N.D., and a public workshop on the final proposal in Omaha in late July.