

Dear Interested Stakeholder in Missouri River Basin Issues:

Based on the unanimous consensus recommendation of the participants on the Interview Panel, the U.S. Institute is very pleased to announce the selection of the mediation team from CDR Associates: Chris Moore (lead), Joe McMahon, Leigh Price, Mary Margaret Golten, Matt McKinney, and Julie McKay to provide impartial neutral assistance with an Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Spring Rise Process, as well as with a Basin-wide assessment aimed at designing and convening the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) process. Additional information about CDR Associates can be found at: <http://www.mediate.org>.

The first meeting of the proposed "Core Planning Group" for the Spring Rise process that had been tentatively scheduled for April 28th, is now being postponed until early May. This will allow the U.S. Institute to coordinate with the newly selected mediation team in determining the appropriate makeup of the Core Planning Group and better prepare for their initial meeting. We are still anticipating broad intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder participation in a Plenary Group process, where the substantive discussions about spring rise options will be deliberated. In addition, we are also still anticipating that a Technical Working Group will be established to gather information and help support the deliberations of the Plenary Group.

An inter-tribal meeting is being held on April 25th, to begin discussions about how the tribes would individually and collectively like to participate in the Spring Rise process.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the participants on the Interview Panel. They put in a very long day on Tuesday, April 12th, interviewing the four teams of finalists and then discussing which team would be most appropriate to help stakeholders (both governmental and nongovernmental) address the considerable challenges that lie ahead. The initial effort will be to forge an agreement on the 2006 Spring Rise and then to determine how best to design and convene the MRRIC process, so that it can serve as an effective forum for developing broadly supported long-term solutions for the Basin.

Once again, many thanks to the participants on the Interview Panel and also to those who reviewed and submitted comments on the proposals of the four finalists. They included:

Richard Aubuchon, Missouri Attorney General's Office  
Brian Barels, Nebraska Public Power District  
David Barfield, State of Kansas, Division of Water Resources  
William (Bill) Beacom, Navigator  
Jim Berkley, Environmental Protection Agency  
David Combs, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District  
George Cunningham, Sierra Club  
Darrell Dorsey, Kansas City Board of Public Utilities  
Mike George, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Omaha District  
Harold Hadland, Nebraska Public Power District  
Rose Hargrave, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Harold Hommes, Iowa Department of Agriculture  
Sue Jennings, National Park Service - Midwest Regional Office  
Donald Jorgensen, Lakota Consulting / Missouri River Technical Group of Siouxland Chamber of Commerce  
Bill Lay, Missouri Levee District  
Sue Lowry, Wyoming State Engineer's Office  
Buzz Mattelin, Agriculture / Farmer  
Lanny Meng, Agriculture / Farmer  
David Nelson, Cheyenne River Sioux Environmental Program  
Wayne Nelson-Stastny, State of South Dakota - Game, Fish and Parks  
Dawnette Owens, Mni-Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition

Tony Provost, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska / Mni-Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition  
Jim Redmond, Sierra Club  
William Rice, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7  
Bob Riehl, Western Area Power Administration  
Mary Roth, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Tom Schrempp, WaterOne - Water District No. 1 of Johnson County, Kansas City, Kansas  
Charlie Scott, Fish & Wildlife Service  
Jeff Shafer, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources  
Jason Skold, The Nature Conservancy  
Chad Smith, American Rivers  
Robert Vincze, Greenberg Traurig, LLP (MO-ARK, MLDDA)  
Alicia Waters, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Wayne Werkmesiter, National Park Service  
Gene Zuerlein, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

At the end of the day, it was my impression that members of the Interview Panel left with a feeling that momentum was building towards some real progress. I think they also left with a shared sense of hope for the future of the Basin.

**Michael Eng**

Senior Program Manager  
U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution  
130 South Scott Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85701  
Telephone: 520.670.5299 x14 Fax: 520.670.5530  
Email: [eng@ecr.gov](mailto:eng@ecr.gov) Website: [www.ecr.gov](http://www.ecr.gov)