

Water District No. 1 of Johnson County

October 23, 2006

Ms. Rose Hargrave
Program Director
Missouri River Recovery Implementation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
12565 West Center Road
Omaha, NE 68144

Re: Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee

Dear Ms. Hargrave:

I am writing to submit written comments and to follow-up my verbal comments presented at the public meeting held on September 28, 2006 held in Kansas City, Kansas regarding the Proposed Framework for Establishing the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee.

As I mentioned at the public meeting, WaterOne has a major concern about the lack of involvement by any water utilities on the Planning Committee to develop the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC). These concerns were also voiced by several other water utilities representing the Kansas City area, including the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities and the Kansas City, Missouri Water Services Department. We are still optimistic that MRRIC will be an effective tool to manage the Missouri River Basin, but only if all of the major stakeholders are properly represented on the Committee. I was very surprised that the written report on the Proposed Framework for Establishing the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee, dated August 31, 2006, did not provide for involvement by water utilities operating on the Missouri River. Page 2 of that document stated, "Non-governmental members of the Planning Committee will be representative of all major interests in the basin". The exclusion of water utilities from this process is a significant error.

As you are aware, water supply is one of the eight congressionally authorized purposes of the River and Harbors Act of 1935 and the Flood Control Act of 1944 under which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (Corps) operates the Missouri River. Additionally, water supply is one of the six congressionally authorized purposes under which the Bureau of Reclamation operates reservoirs in the Missouri River Basin. Water supply is also specifically referenced in the 2004 Master Manual and is mentioned in every Annual Operating Plan established by the Corps. Public water utilities are obviously major stakeholders in the Missouri River Basin.

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In the Spring of 2006 the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution conducted surveys and polls to determine the appropriate stakeholder groups for participation in the MRRIC. The results of that analysis indicated that water supply should make up approximately 1/8 of the stakeholders represented on MRRIC (5.5 out of 42 members). It therefore seems appropriate that water supply stakeholders play a key role in the MRRIC Planning Committee.

WaterOne is respectfully requesting that the Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reconsider the recommendation set forth in the August 31, 2006 Proposed Framework for Establishing the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee and revise the Planning Committee to include several members who will represent the water supply stakeholders.

If you should have any questions concerning the comments presented at the September 28, 2006 public meeting or the written comments submitted herein, please feel free to contact me at (913) 895-5517.

Very truly yours.



Michael J. Armstrong
General Manager

MJA/jb

cc: Larry Cieslik, P.E.
Col. Mike Rossi
Tom Schrempp, P.E.