



News Release

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

1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Phone: (402) 995-2416
paul.t.johnston@usace.army.mil

Contact: Paul Johnston
(402) 995-2416

Jody Farhat
(402) 996-3840

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Corps adjusts Kansas releases to reduce pulse size

OMAHA – The size of the pulse of water released into the Missouri River on Monday to benefit the endangered pallid sturgeon will be cut by more than half below Kansas City as releases from two Army Corps of Engineers dams in Kansas are adjusted this week.

In an operation similar to that used in March 2008, the combined releases from Tuttle Creek and Perry dams will be reduced by a total of 3,500 cubic feet second (cfs) in time to coincide with the arrival of the pulse in Kansas City about May 24. A 6,000 cfs pulse of water was initiated at noon Monday from Gavins Point Dam. The two-day peak ends today at noon, with releases gradually reduced over the next seven days until they return to the level necessary to maintain minimum navigation flows.

River levels are currently declining at Kansas City, Boonville and Hermann, Mo. The cuts from the Kansas projects will reduce any rise in the river caused by the pulse. When it arrives, the stage at Kansas City is forecast to be about a foot lower than today. Boonville will be nearly 10 feet lower than today's stage and Hermann down 5.6 feet. A flow of 6,000 cfs at Boonville is the equivalent of less than a foot of stage.

The pulse complies with the provisions of the Missouri River Master Water Control Manual and the 2003 Amended Biological Opinion published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It identifies pulses in the spring from Gavins Point as part of the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative to avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of the endangered pallid sturgeon.