

Plant Perspectives

May 31, 2011

Missouri River Levels

This morning, CNS contacted the Army Corps of Engineers regarding current river level projections and those expected through June.

The Corps informed us that flows from Gavin's Point Dam will be increased slowly until the release rates are roughly 150,000 cubic feet per second. Their goal is to achieve this release rate no earlier than June 15.

The Corps stated that if snow melt is higher than predicted or the Missouri River Basin receives excess rainfall, the higher release rates could be advanced. Should these conditions occur, the earliest prediction for achieving the release rate of 150,000 cfs would be late this week (June 5 or 6).

Release rates of 150,000 cfs mean we will see a river flow at CNS of between 205,000 and 270,000 cfs, based on the release rate from Gavin's Point Dam and additional input to the Missouri River from tributaries. These release rates and river flows would produce a river level of at least 43' at Brownville, which equates to 899.5' at CNS using sea level elevation numbers. This is 0.11' higher than the high peak observed last year (899.4). This also means we would declare a notification of unusual event.

The Corps' website projects the river rising to 39.1' (895.6') from the current 39' (895.5') by 9 a.m. tomorrow. From the discussion, the predictors and the releases will be on a day-to-day basis updated daily at 8 a.m. on the website:
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=oax&gage=bron1&view=1,1,1,1,1,1,1>

While the Corps predicts the river levels to be stable at 895.6' for the next seven days, we expect a level of 899.51' by June 15, if we receive no more significant rainfall.

We are required by procedure to install flood barriers at 898', and the station would declare an Alert at 902'. This is significantly higher than the highest river level in recent history – 900.5' during the flood of 1993.

Though we do not anticipate any disruption to our generation, the weather hotline will be used beginning next week. Prior to leaving home personnel should call (402) 825-5000

(Continued on next page)

(option four) for updated information. If a weather/flood emergency has been declared, additional instructions will be provided on the hotline.

If an employee feels that he/she cannot safely make it to work, he/she must call their supervisor and take vacation time for the time off. If no vacation time is available, the time off will be without pay.

If plant management determines that people should be sent home due to changing conditions, it will be communicated to managers and supervisor who will then implement the actions. If someone feels that he/she must leave early, it should be discussed with their supervisor. Time off would be charged to vacation, if available, or without pay when no vacation time is available.

Please contact your supervisor if you have any questions.

Deet Willis
General Manager of Plant Operations