

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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ACTION BEGINS ON REFORMULATION OF CEDAR BLUFF RESERVOIR PROJECT

Washington, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole (Ks) submitted a statement to the House Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Off-shore Energy Resources today regarding legislation recently introduced in both Houses that would authorize the reformulation of the Cedar Bluff Reservoir. The Senate is expected to act on the legislation shortly.

The following is Senator Dole's statement:

I AM PROUD TO SUPPORT NEEDED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE THE REFORMULATION OF THE CEDAR BLUFF UNIT OF THE PICK-SLOAN MISSOURI RIVER BASIN PROGRAM, KANSAS, AND PROVIDE FOR THE AMENDMENT OF WATER SERVICE AND REPAYMENT CONTRACTS.

AS YOU KNOW, PAT ROBERTS HAS INTRODUCED THE LEGISLATION CURRENTLY PENDING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. I HAVE INTRODUCED IDENTICAL LEGISLATION IN THE SENATE WHERE I EXPECT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN SHORTLY.

SIMILAR LEGISLATION WAS INTRODUCED LATE LAST YEAR, BUT WAS UNABLE TO RECEIVE FAVORABLE ACTION DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE 100TH CONGRESS.

STUDIES SHOW A SIGNIFICANT FLOW DEPLETION IN THE SMOKY HILL RIVER ABOVE CEDAR BLUFF RESERVOIR. THERE HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT DECLINE IN WATER SUPPLY AVAILABLE FOR IRRIGATION FROM CEDAR BLUFF DURING THE PAST 23 YEARS AND AND NO DELIVERIES OF IRRIGATION WATER HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE 1978.

IN RECENT YEARS, THE CEDAR BLUFF IRRIGATION DISTRICT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO PAY CONSTRUCTION REPAYMENT INSTALLMENTS, OR OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACEMENT OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE PRESENT CONTRACT WITH THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION.

IN ADDITION, THE FISH CULTURAL STATION LOCATED BELOW THE DAM, WHICH WAS OPERATED BY THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, HAS BEEN CLOSED AND IS NOW OPERATED BY THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS AS A CANADIAN GOOSE REARING FACILITY.