



Mid-West Electric Consumers Association

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Your Pick-Sloan Power May Be at Risk!! ACT NOW!!!

Dear Mid-West Member,

I write to urge you to assist us in representing hydropower interests in the Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study (MRAPS). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be convening a meeting on September 7th in Worthington, Minnesota from 5:00-8:00 p.m. A copy of the meeting announcement and more detailed information is attached. The purpose of this meeting is to provide input to the Corps in “scoping” this study. You’ll find more information at the web site, MRAPS.org.

MRAPS was authorized by Congress to re-examine the authorized project purposes (flood control, hydropower, navigation, recreation, fish and wildlife, irrigation, municipal and industrial water) of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program (“Pick-Sloan”) in light of today’s needs. The Corps has been soliciting input throughout the Missouri River basin and some states along the Mississippi River as well.

Prior to the announcement of this meeting, the Corps had not included Minnesota in its study work. Mid-West has insisted that Minnesota be included since Minnesota, in part, lies within the river basin and is included in the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program. Minnesota is not only the largest beneficiary of Pick-Sloan hydropower but also will receive Missouri River water through the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System.

We need your participation in this meeting to emphasize the importance of Pick-Sloan hydropower to Minnesota communities. If you are able to attend, please stress:

- Minnesota lies within the Missouri River basin, and is a current recipient of Pick-Sloan benefits through the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program and so must be included in the MRAPS study;
- Hydro power generation of Pick-Sloan is an important energy resource for rural electric cooperatives, municipal electric utilities, tribes, and states in the region;
- Our community receives **XX%** (example) of its annual energy needs from the hydro generation facilities on the Missouri River;
- Cost-based Pick-Sloan hydropower helps to maintain competitive rates for electricity, an important consideration in maintaining economic growth in our communities;

- Hydropower provides a clean, renewable energy resource to communities and utilities in the region where the most common alternative would be coal generation;
- Revenues from hydropower sales not only pay all the costs of power facilities, but also help to repay other Pick-Sloan costs as well;
- So, in addition to providing a clean renewable energy resource, revenues from these federal power facilities also play an important role in contributing to the repayment of the federal investment in projects that benefit millions of Americans; and
- The value of hydropower depends on release schedules – what time of year, what time of day.

We've gotten the Corps to listen, help us follow through by attending the meeting and adding your voice to protect your federal hydropower resource.

Thanks!

Thomas Graves
Executive Director