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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Minimal residential impacts expected from increased water releases from Garrison Dam**

Mandan, N.D. – As the US Army Corps of Engineers announced its plan to increase releases from the Garrison Dam reaching 52,000 cubic feet per second by Wednesday, Morton County officials want to assure residents along the Missouri River that residential impacts from increased flows and higher water levels should be minimal.

Any flood concerns which may occur are anticipated to be well within local capabilities to manage. While observations of higher water and possible increases in sump pump activity may create some anxieties, actual outflows and anticipated stages downstream are not of a magnitude to translate into significant widespread impacts.

The 52,000 cfs release will result in a 1.5-foot river stage increase near Bismarck/Mandan, from 10.5 feet to about 12 feet. The Corps plans to continue to monitor basin and river conditions, including rainfall and mountain snowmelt, and will adjust the releases based on the most up-to-date information.

Residents who suffered through the 2011 Flood will likely remember at which water elevations issues developed. Some confusion arises when residents correlate the Bismarck Gage reading provided on the National Weather Service's website to FEMA flood maps. The Bismarck Gage is based on 1929 Datum where elevation starts at 1618.28-feet mean sea level (msl), but the FEMA Flood Maps are based on 1988 Datum, therefore adding another 1.3 feet where elevation starts at 1619.58-feet msl.

Consequently, if the river rises to 12 feet, the elevation for FEMA map correlation becomes 1631.58-feet msl. So if you know the elevation of your property, you should plan to expect a water level of 1631.58-feet no later than Thursday afternoon. Residents who suffered through the 2011 Flood may also remember the forecasted gage readings were exaggerated due to the unanticipated scouring which occurred during the high releases. It is likely such dynamics will come into play resulting in changed shoreline conditions and reconfigured sandbars.

“When we hit 12 feet on the gauge, we’re only six inches away from ‘Action Stage,’ – the stage when the Mandan Flood Plan is implemented – so we do encourage residents to be vigilant in protecting their property, docks, boat lifts and boats and adjust for changing conditions,” said Morton County Emergency Manager Tom Doering.

The potential for groundwater issues can cause various problems for homeowners. Structural damage, sewer system back-ups, and damaged appliances are three of the most distressing consequences. Fortunately, some remedies include plugging floor drains, installing sump pumps or ensuring your sump pump is operational. How-to videos and tips are available on our website at

[https://www.co.morton.nd.us/index.asp?SEC=92C4CF96-0E14-4F13-879B-6BCFEF811976&Type=B\\_BASIC](https://www.co.morton.nd.us/index.asp?SEC=92C4CF96-0E14-4F13-879B-6BCFEF811976&Type=B_BASIC)

A *Depth to Water Table Map* for the City of Mandan for a 12-foot gage reading is being developed by the ND State Water Commission and when completed, a link will be available on the Morton County and City of Mandan websites.

Morton County officials encourage residents to report any impacts due to the high water, and have created a comment form on the county website's Emergency Management Flood Information page to communicate those concerns so they can be addressed:

<https://www.co.morton.nd.us/index.asp?SEC=C88A037C-7929-4395-9F04-FB3D75256F50&Type=SUPERFORMS>

Last week, Morton County officials advised boaters to reduce their wake in order to avoid significant damage to river banks. As the water rises, the threat of erosion increases so officials appreciate the public's continued cooperation and consideration to the concerns of property owners regarding damage to banks and infrastructure along those banks. Officials continue to reinforce their request for cooperation from the public.

"With the higher water levels and increased current, we ask boaters be safe and considerate as they move along the river and help protect the riverbanks," said Morton County Commission Chairman Bruce Strinden.

If boaters ignore requests to minimize wake damage to the river banks, it may become necessary for the Burleigh and Morton County Commissions to send a resolution to the ND Game & Fish Department asking for an *Idle Speed Only* declaration for a defined stretch of the Missouri river in our immediate area.

"Self-enforcement is the preferred option, so we ask boaters for their consideration and voluntary compliance in minimizing wake damage during this period of high water flows," Strinden adds.

Water levels on the Missouri River are forecasted to remain high throughout the summer due to higher than normal releases from Garrison Dam.

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