



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

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Governor Responds to Corps Plans for Increased Flows; Names Key Staffers to Examine Missouri River Management

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Dennis Daugaard said he is very disappointed by news that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will increase releases from Oahe Dam on Saturday and Sunday.

The Corps announced in its Friday evening conference call that it will raise the releases from Oahe from the current 150,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) to 155,000 CFS on Saturday and 160,000 CFS on Sunday. The Corps said that will move water from Oahe down the reservoir system to Fort Randall Reservoir, which has some flood storage remaining. State and local officials first learned of the change during that call.

"I am very disappointed by this news, and I hope the Corps will do its best to plan for high rainfall and avoid increasing water releases," Governor Daugaard said. "The state is working with the Corps to ascertain the impact this will have, so that we can ensure the levees remain effective."

"I am also very concerned about the effect this will have on private levees that were built relying on Corps information," the Governor added.

Governor Daugaard has named Jason Glodt, his public safety policy advisor, and general counsel Jim Seward to lead a team that will question the Corps and examine the management decisions that contributed to the flood.

"We have been working hard to complete our levees and defenses against the floodwaters and to deal with dewatering," the Governor said. "Now that the initial work is complete, the time has come to ask the Corps why this happened and ascertain if we can prevent it from happening again."

Corps officials said continued unusually high rainfall into the Missouri River from Montana through North Dakota and into South Dakota forced it to increase the releases from Oahe. Corps officials said they have no immediate plans to increase releases from Fort Randall or Gavins Point dams. They also said they are confident the levees protecting the communities of Pierre and Fort Pierre below Oahe Dam will handle the increased flow.