

Hicks-Ray Associates



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TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Fred B. Hicks and Tom Ray

SUBJECT: Pipeline from the Missouri River to Relieve the Arid West

We have attached a New York Times article concerning the Colorado River Supply Study conducted by the Bureau of Reclamation and soon to be released in final form. WESTCAS members had an early, in depth briefing on this study from Carly Jerla from the Bureau's Denver office during the annual conference in June in San Diego.

Many observers are astonished that one of the possible solutions identified in the study is to build a pipeline from the Missouri River with the intake being located in Eastern Kansas and running it all the way to the Denver area. Some 600,000 acre feet of water could be moved through the pipeline and deposited in reservoirs around Denver. This water could then be shared out during the year to replenish the Colorado River and other water users.

Needless to say, it would be unwise to hold your breath waiting for this pipeline to be built. In fact, opponents are already calling it a 20th century water solution that is being proposed in the 21st century. In addition to the expected environmental concerns, a pipeline from the Missouri River could also reduce water levels on the Mississippi River and halt barge traffic.

The Bureau Study, and this particular recommendation, is just another reminder of the daunting challenges that WESTCAS members face as they work to secure their water supply in the coming years.

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