

FACTS: Regional Pool Program for C-BT Project water

Fall 2009

What is the Regional Pool Program?

The Regional Pool Program provides C-BT Project allottees a mechanism to lease water they do not need in the current water year to other water users for use in the following water year. The Regional Pool Program, or RPP, is administered pursuant to a rule adopted by the Northern Water Board of Directors in 2005.

How was the RPP developed and when was it adopted?

Early in 2003 C-BT allottees and Northern Water staff began meeting on a regular basis to explore opportunities to modify existing Northern Water-sponsored programs to ensure the C-BT Project's ability to deliver water throughout an extended drought period.

During the same series of meetings, allottees also said they recognized the significance of the supplemental water supply the C-BT Project provides to Northeastern Colorado each and every year. Upon the conclusion of these meetings, the Northern Water Board adopted a slightly modified Annual Carryover Program (ACP) and two new programs: the Carryover Capacity Transferability Program (CCTP) and the RPP. The

modified ACP and the CCTP have been used by water users since they were adopted in 2004. The RPP, however, can be activated only in years when C-BT Project storage levels exceed predefined limits. Depending on conditions, water year 2010 may be the first year when those conditions are met.

Where does the RPP water come from?

At the end of every water

year (Oct. 31), Account Entities (AEs) are allowed to carry over a limited portion of their unused C-BT water



into the new water year. Unused water in excess of an AE's carryover limits will accrue to the Regional Pool. In addition, if an AE elects not to pay for the storage of its carryover water, that water is also added to the Regional Pool.

How and when is water allocated from the Regional Pool?

According to the RPP rule, the Board may allocate water from the Regional Pool only when C-BT Project Reserves (as calculated in mid-November) are in excess of 200,000 acre feet. The size of the Regional Pool is limited to 62,000 acre feet. If the Board elects to make Regional Pool water available for lease, it may do so at any number of its regularly scheduled monthly Board meetings starting in January of each year. The Board may likely make Regional Pool water available incrementally throughout the late winter and early spring months.

"The Regional Pool Program provides an opportunity to better manage and beneficially use available C-BT Project water supplies while assuring the continuing reliability of those supplies for Project allottees."

- Northern Water
General Manager
Eric Wilkinson

Who gets to use the Regional Pool water?

All Regional Pool water will be made available through a competitive sealed bid process. Once allocated from the Regional Pool, water will be leased to qualified water users who submit the highest bid per acre foot. Both allottees and non-allottees can lease water from the Regional Pool. Revenue generated by the lease of Regional Pool water will ultimately be distributed back to the AEs that provided water to the Regional Pool. It is important to recognize that the Regional Pool rule does not allow AEs to lease water from the Regional Pool if any of their C-BT water accrued to that same pool.



Hansen Feeder Canal

How can the water be used?

Similar to other C-BT supplies leased among water users in Northeastern Colorado, RPP water may only be leased for beneficial uses authorized by Northern Water and only within the Northern Water district boundaries. You don't have to be a C-BT allottee to bid on or use RPP water.



Horsetooth Reservoir

What is the outlook for 2010?

Good. Project reserves have grown steadily throughout 2008 and 2009. In addition, many entities will have year-end quota account balances

that exceed their allowable 2010 carryover levels. As a consequence, the Board may likely allocate some water from the Regional Pool early in water year 2010.

Will the RPP restrict an entity's ability to lease their own C-BT water?

Absolutely not. The Board will continue to declare an annual "quota" to owners of C-BT allotment contracts. Allottees will continue to have the flexibility to lease all, or a portion, of their respective quota water to water users within Northern Water's district boundaries.

For more information

The RPP rule is available at www.northernwater.org under Information, then News Releases. Northern Water staff members are developing detailed RPP procedures which will be available to water users by mid-December.

To stay informed about the status of the RPP please send an e-mail to regionalpool@ncwcd.org indicating your name and e-mail address.

If you have additional questions, please contact:

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