

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2002

930H0073

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1002

Introduced by: Representatives Kloucek, Bartling, Elliott, Hargens, Nachtigal, and Van Gerpen and Senators Putnam, Hutmacher, and Moore

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the United States Army Corps of Engineers to
2 reconsider its Draft Implementation Plan for the Final Biological Opinion on Operation of
3 the Missouri River Main Stem Reservoir System.

4 WHEREAS, the Draft Implementation Plan for the Final Biological Opinion on Operation
5 of the Missouri River Main Stem Reservoir System will damage property, the economy, and the
6 recreational uses of the Missouri River and surrounding communities in Nebraska and South
7 Dakota located between Fort Randall Dam and Lewis and Clark Lake; and

8 WHEREAS, the Draft Implementation Plan proposes to release much higher than normal
9 flows from Fort Randall Dam until mid-June, then to release very low flows for six weeks, and
10 then very high flows again in the fall; and

11 WHEREAS, the extreme high flows (over 40,000 cubic feet per second at Gavins Point
12 Dam) will cause flooding in the spring and fall, and the low flows (less than 28,000 cubic feet
13 per second at Gavins Point Dam) will ruin the Missouri River for recreation purposes in the
14 summer, essentially a devastating combination for this area; and

15 WHEREAS, the cause of the problem is sedimentation in the Missouri River deposited at the



1 headwaters of Lewis and Clark Lake by the Niobrara River and Ponca Creek, with Lewis and
2 Clark Lake silting in very rapidly. Sediment from these tributaries has created deltas in the
3 Missouri River channel, causing flood damage when releases from Fort Randall Dam are in the
4 magnitude proposed in the Draft Implementation Plan; and

5 WHEREAS, the Missouri River Restoration Act of 2000 recognizes the problems and
6 requires a comprehensive study to preserve the Missouri River; and

7 WHEREAS, the Corps of Engineers acknowledges the flooding problems in this particular
8 area but the Draft Implementation Plan ignores the issue:

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
10 seventh Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the United
11 States Army Corps of Engineers be urged to address and solve the aforementioned problems
12 before implementing the changes proposed in the Draft Implementation Plan.