
CANAL FLOWS TO END THURSDAY

For Immediate Release
Nampa, Idaho - Oct. 1, 2009

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Boise River water flows to more than 500 miles of the Ridenbaugh and lateral canals will be shut off next Thursday (Oct. 8), water managers with the Treasure Valley's largest irrigation district announced today.

For the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District, the water cut off marks the end of the annual surface water irrigation season for the 69,000 acres of farmland and 335 residential subdivisions in the valley with pressurized urban irrigation systems served by the District.

The water cutoff means residential water users with pressurized urban irrigation systems managed by the District will need to switch to another water source such as a municipal system if they want to continue to irrigate lawns and landscaping.

The end of Boise River irrigation water deliveries by the District comes slightly later than in recent years thanks to a good snowpack from last winter. In 2008 water was shut off on October 2 and on September 1 in 2007.

The District has been able to provide full irrigation supplies since canal flows began last April, according to John Anderson, NMID Water Superintendent.

The District actually ended the irrigation with water left in storage in Boise River reservoirs as carryover for the 2010 irrigation season, but it will be some time until the actual amount of carryover water is calculated, Anderson added. Carryover water helps the District cope with irrigation demands when snowpack levels are below normal.

"The carryover will go towards next year's irrigation and it is largely a result of great water management and conservation efforts by our farmers and residents," Anderson said.

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Anderson said it could take up to two days before canal levels begin to drop in the furthest reaches of the NMID system. The entire system should be nearly empty in three to four days after the water is shut at the District's river diversion facility located at the start of the Ridenbaugh Canal near Barber Park. The District then launch its annual canal maintenance and repair program.

Since 1904 NMID has delivered water via its canals and pressurized irrigation systems to farmers, homes and commercial properties in Ada and Canyon country. For more information contact the District Office at 466-7861 or visit the District's web site at: www.nmid.org

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