



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

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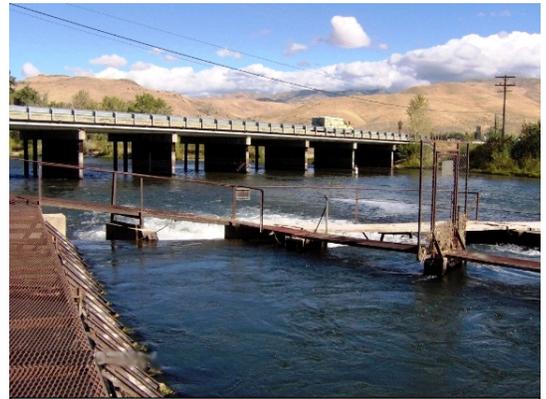
NAMPA & MERIDIAN TO BEGIN FILLING CANALS APRIL 1; **OFFICIALS MONITORING IRRIGATION WATER SUPPLIES**

For Immediate Release
Nampa, Idaho – March 23, 2015

For Media Information Contact:
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Water managers with the Treasure Valley's largest irrigation district will open the headgates of the historic Ridenbaugh Canal near Barber Park at 3 a.m. on April 1 to begin diverting Boise River water into the canal and officially launch the start of the 2015 irrigation season, the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District announced today.

NMID officials say they currently hope to provide a relatively normal supply of irrigation water, thanks in part to a fair amount of carryover water from last year. The water year started with heavy snowfall in November. However, dwindling snowfalls during the remainder of the winter months, coupled with above average temperatures, somewhat clouded the outlook, according to Greg Curtis, NMID water superintendent.



The NMID diversion on the Boise River near Barber Park is the head of the District's historic Ridenbaugh Canal.

“We have to wait and see how spring goes. Right now it feels like we have jumped ahead on the calendar by a month. The reservoir system is currently at approximately 79 percent of capacity which would normally make us feel pretty good right now. On the other hand the snowpack reports we have been receiving show we are currently around 65% of normal right now. The snow pack is really our ‘other’ reservoir system that typically supplies our water in the form of natural flow in the river that we use until the first part of July when we switch over to water stored in Arrow Rock and Anderson Ranch Reservoirs. Hopefully, Mother Nature will bail us out with a good spring storm that can turn things around,” Curtis explained.

It takes about two weeks to completely fill, clean and test the 500 miles of main and lateral canals so actual water deliveries to NMID users should begin approximately April 15, Curtis added. NMID crews also will begin testing the pressurized irrigation systems operated by the District on March 30. The District typically delivers water until the first week of October.

NMID delivers irrigation water to approximately 69,000 acres of Treasure Valley agricultural and residential lands in Ada and Canyon Counties including pressurized irrigation for more than 15,000 residential and commercial lots including 379 residential subdivisions. 2015 marks the 111th consecutive year of water deliveries to the Treasure Valley by the irrigation district.

The beginning of the irrigation season also marks the start of what historically means a sharply increased drowning risk for area residents, especially children.

“Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District wants to remind everyone that the canal systems that cross the valley continue to serve an enormous benefit. However canals are not for recreating and should be treated as dangerous areas. Parents please remind your children to stay away from irrigation canals,” Curtis said. NMID canals are private property, so playing in a canal or along their banks is considered trespassing under Idaho law.

The District conducts annually an intensive canal safety campaign on area radio and television stations to both educate and warn the public about the dangers of going near a full irrigation canal.

For more information about the District call 466-7861. Information is also available on its Internet website: www.nmid.org.

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