

FAQs Regional Pool Program

What is the Regional Pool Program?

The Regional Pool Program provides Colorado-Big Thompson 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 year. The program is administered pursuant to a rule adopted by the Northern Water Board of Directors in 2005 and modified June 2018.

How and when was the Regional Pool Program developed?

Early in 2003, C-BT Project allottees and Northern Water staff began meeting to discuss ways to improve C-BT Project related programs' effectiveness at meeting demands during long droughts.

These meetings led to changes to the Annual Carryover Program and to the creation of the Carryover Capacity Transferability Program, which have both been used since 2004.

Discussions about the significance of the C-BT Project's annual supplemental water supply also led to creation of the Regional Pool Program. Although the program was developed in 2005, Regional Pool Program water can only be allocated when C-BT Project storage exceeds a certain amount. The first allocation did not take place until these conditions were first met in 2010.

Where does the Regional Pool Program water come from?

At the end of every water year (Oct. 31), account entities are allowed to carry over a portion of their unused C-BT Project water into the new water year. Unused water in excess of an account entity's carryover limits will accrue to the Regional Pool. If an account entity elects not to pay for the storage of carryover water, that water goes in too.

How and when is water allocated from the Regional Pool?

According to the Regional Pool Program rule, the Northern Water Board of Directors may allocate water from the Regional Pool only when C-BT Project reserves (as calculated in mid-November) exceed 200,000 acre-feet.

The rule limits the size of Regional Pool allocations to 62,000 acre-feet per year. If the board elects to make Regional Pool water available for lease, it may do so at any of its regularly scheduled monthly board meetings starting in January.

If the Board does not allocate all of the Regional Pool Program water in a given month, it can make more water available incrementally through September.

Who gets to use the Regional Pool water?

All Regional Pool water will be available through a competitive sealed bid process. Once it is allocated, 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 Regional Pool Program leases will ultimately be distributed back to the account entities that provided water to the pool.

How can the water be used?

Regional Pool Program water may only be leased for uses authorized by Northern Water and only within Northern Water's boundaries. You don't have to be an allottee to bid on or use Regional Pool Program water.

Will the Regional Pool Program restrict an entity's ability to lease its own C-BT Project water?

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

For more information contact:

Sarah Smith, 970-622-2295
ssmith@northernwater.org

Water Scheduling, 970-292-2500
regionalpool@northernwater.org

2020 Regional Pool Program

NOTICE: Due to COVID-19 pandemic, procedures for the Regional Pool Program have been modified for the safety of Northern Water staff and those who wish to place a bid on Regional Pool water. The updated procedures are available at northernwater.org/regionalpool. Key changes are listed below:

- 1 Pre-Approval Form** – Interested bidders must email or mail the Pre-Approval Form to Northern Water. **In person delivery will not be accepted in 2020.** A new Pre-Approval Form is required each year.
- 2 Carrier Consent Form** – If the RPP water will be delivered through a carrier, such as a ditch or reservoir company, bidders or their carriers must complete the Carrier Consent Form or provide a signed agreement stating that the carrier will deliver the RPP water to the bidder. **This form must also be emailed or mailed to Northern Water; in person delivery will not be accepted.**
- 3 Bid Form** – Sealed bids delivered to Northern Water will be “self-serve.” Bidders will sign in using an iPad in the lobby and print a sticker for their sealed bid. This sticker will contain their name, date and time stamp, and bid number. Secure the sticker to your sealed bid and place in the drop box. **Bids are due by 2 p.m. on May 28, 2020.**
- 4 How do I learn about the Regional Pool Program bidding results?**
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the bid opening will take place via a Zoom video conference at 9 a.m. on June 1. The link to Zoom video conference is available at northernwater.org/RegionalPool. Additionally, preliminary bid results will be posted on the Regional Pool web page.
- 5 When is payment due?**
Payment will be due **15 business days** (June 22, 2020) after bid opening. Payment must be sent:

Northern Water
PO Box 913208
Denver, CO 80291-3208

Payment delivered to Northern Water’s Berthoud office will not be accepted.

- 6 Who do I contact if I have questions?**
Many staff are working remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are not available to answer questions in person. Questions regarding the Regional Pool Program and submitting a bid can be emailed to regionalpool@northernwater.org or by calling Sarah Smith at 970-622-2295 or Water Scheduling at 970-292-2500.