



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Initial Water to Move into Chimney Hollow Reservoir in November 2025**

CHIMNEY HOLLOW RESERVOIR – Northern Water will move a small amount of water into Chimney Hollow Reservoir starting the first week of November. During this time, additional water quality data will be collected and used to evaluate the performance of model simulations used to predict uranium concentrations in the reservoir and required dam safety monitoring will begin. Even as the reservoir fills, no water will be released as further assessments are underway, and mitigation options continue to be evaluated.

Northern Water has been testing how the uranium minerals leach into water and what concentration to expect when the reservoir fills and as its operation begins. Less than 2 percent of the total capacity will be moved into the reservoir to allow time for additional data collection and investigations to advance.

Because the uranium minerals are coming from materials quarried at the site, excess (unused) rock from construction has been placed under a layer of water-sealing clay. The clay cap will effectively minimize uranium leaching from these materials.

In the next few weeks, construction water used in the aggregate processing of materials at Chimney Hollow will be pumped and stored in the onsite quarry prior to moving new water into the reservoir. This construction water will be managed separately from the fresh water moved into Chimney Hollow Reservoir and will require future mitigation.

Before making mitigation decisions, Northern Water wants to make sure all the information to evaluate operational and treatment options has been considered. A rigorous process, starting with geochemical characterization and scoping studies will inform mitigation alternatives analysis and ultimately the selection of a final approach.

The Chimney Hollow Reservoir Project is a collaboration between 12 Northeastern Colorado water providers and an electric generation utility to improve the reliability of, or make firm, water supplies from the Windy Gap Project. Chimney Hollow Reservoir is located just west of Carter Lake in Larimer County and will provide 90,000 acre-feet of dedicated storage. The water delivery infrastructure is integrated with that of the existing Colorado-Big Thompson Project.

Northern Water expects uranium leaching to decrease over time because there is a finite quantity of soluble uranium at the site. The duration of the leaching process is not fully understood yet and will depend on how the reservoir is operated over time. While the discovery of mineralized uranium has caused Northern Water to modify its plans, uranium is an issue that can be safely managed. The new reservoir remains an important part of securing water supply needs for Northern Colorado and its future. Please visit the [Water Quality page on our website](#) where we have included more information and a list of Frequently Asked Questions.

### **About Northern Water**

Northern Water, a public agency created in 1937, provides water for food production and municipal, domestic and industrial uses for more than 1 million people in Northeastern Colorado via the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, Pleasant Valley Pipeline and Southern Water Supply Project. Northern Water also generates hydropower at two sites and provides water quality services throughout the region. Its Municipal Subdistrict delivers water through the Windy Gap Project. Northern Water and the Municipal Subdistrict are currently planning the Northern Integrated Supply Project to enhance Front Range water supplies for the future, as well as constructing Chimney Hollow Reservoir which is the key component of the Windy Gap Firming Project. Learn more at [www.northernwater.org](http://www.northernwater.org).