

district?

SENATOR ELMER: Yes, there are.

SENATOR DIERKS: What are they? Where are they? Who?

SENATOR ELMER: Currently, we have a situation where the water tables have been greatly reduced, as you can see by your maps that have been distributed prior, in the area of northeast Colorado and southwest Nebraska, in the basin of the Republican River, and especially in the basin of the Frenchman River, which is a sub...is a tributary of the Republican, and therefore, in the basin. The levels have been reduced to...and the ground water, have been reduced so far that many of the live springs that used to feed the Frenchman River no longer flow. And because of that, the natural stream flow that was planned upon for the Enders Irrigation Project, which is a surface water project, has not been adequate. And the average amount of water that has been available for irrigators in that surface water district has about been three to four acre-inches per year, per acre that's in the project.

SENATOR DIERKS: You're talking about the Enders area?

SENATOR ELMER: Yes.

SENATOR DIERKS: Isn't that a kind of a...like a 15-year-old project in the...

SENATOR ELMER: It's older than that, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Can you give me a recent example of difficulties?

SENATOR ELMER: As far as a specific example other than that one that's well documented, that's negative, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay. Are there any conflicts since the Enders conflict that's been in litigation?

SENATOR ELMER: The Enders conflict was not litigated by choice of the people involved, because they felt that the economic impacts would be too great on southwest Nebraska if they pursued remedies.