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**For Immediate Release:**

**Garrison Diversion O&M Employees Receive Certification**

CARRINGTON, ND (May 5, 2017) - Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) operations and maintenance (O&M) employees underwent training to receive certification, while others were recertified, in rigging/signalperson, overhead, and mobile crane operations.

The training is necessary to comply with OSHA regulations and also ensures safety when the O&M staff is performing a variety of jobs. Overhead cranes are utilized when servicing pumps in pumping plants maintained by Garrison Diversion.

Seven staff members received new certification as rigger/signalperson, while 11 others were recertified. The class instructed staff on how to properly secure loads and equipment. The course also taught proper signals for directing a crane operator.

Two staff members also received training and were certified for overhead and mobile crane operations, with nine becoming recertified. The certification allows staff to operate the majority of mobile cranes including boom trucks and telescoping booms.

Garrison Diversion O&M staff participated in the certification courses along with several Bureau of Reclamation staff members. In order to receive their certification, employees must pass practical and written exams with an 80% or better score.

“The courses taught by the Crane Institute of America, Inc. are outstanding,” says Judy Allmaras, Garrison Diversion Safety Coordinator. “The instruction our staff received will benefit them on a daily basis.” Certification is valid for two years, upon which employees will again complete the course for recertification.