

SRA-1206  
ENV-6.00

Subject: Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement. The purpose of the project is to prevent structural failure of the existing spillway and headworks which are showing considerable signs of degradation.

In addition to correcting these structural problems, Reclamation is also proposing to designate Special Use Areas at the project site in accordance with 43 CFR Part 423 *Regulations, Public Conduct on Bureau of Reclamation Facilities, Lands, and Waterbodies*. These Special Use Areas will define what public uses are allowed in close proximity to the dam, spillway, and other facilities. The designation of these Special Use Areas will permit continuation of historic uses that are not currently permitted under the 43 CFR Part 423 Rules and Regulations.

Alternatives considered in the Draft EIS are Alternative A - No Action, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act; Alternative B - Spillway and Headworks Replacement (preferred alternative); and Alternative C - Spillway Replacement. Designation of Special Use Areas is included in both Alternatives B and C.

Oral comments may be presented at one of three public meetings on the dates and locations listed below:

**Date and Time: January 12, 2010: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**Location: Red Lion Inn, 475 River Parkway, Idaho Falls, ID 83402**

**Date and Time: January 13, 2010: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**Location: Cotton Tree Inn, 1415 Bench Road, Pocatello, ID 83201**

**Date and Time: January 14, 2010: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**Location: Fairfield Inn, 230 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street North, Burley, ID 83318**

Comments may also be submitted electronically to **minidoka\_dam\_eis@ usbr.gov** or by mail to:

**The Bureau of Reclamation  
Snake River Area Office  
Allyn Meuleman, Activity Manager  
230 Collins Road  
Boise, ID 83702-4520  
208-383-2258**

The public meeting facilities are physically accessible. Those who need accessibility accommodations, including sign language interpreters or other auxiliary aids, may contact Ms. Meuleman. Requests should be made by December 28, 2009, to allow sufficient time to arrange for accommodation.

Requests to make oral comments at the public meeting may be made at each meeting. Comments will be recorded by a court reporter. In the interest of available time, each speaker will be asked to limit oral comments to five (5) minutes. Longer comments should be summarized at the public meeting and submitted in writing either at the public meeting or by mail to Ms. Meuleman and identified as meeting comments. To be included as public meeting comments, they should be postmarked by January 21, 2010.

Comments that are not to be included as part of the public meeting comments report must be postmarked by February 5, 2010.

You should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, will be made publicly available in the Final EIS. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

We appreciate your interest and look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

Jerrold D. Gregg  
Area Manager

Enclosure

bc: PN-3824 (Tiedeman), PN-6519 (Abshire)  
 SRA-1206 (Meuleman)  
 USF-2000 (Ketchum), USF-6300 (Boyer)  
 (w/o encls to each)

WBR:AMeuleman:kloomis:11/20/09:208-383-2258:SRA-1206  
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 Transmittal Letter Draft EIS 20 Nov 09.doc

Identical Letter Sent To:

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