



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Snake River Area Office
1359 Hansen Avenue
Burley, Idaho 83318-1821

SEP 29 2009

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**USF-6323
ADM-11.10**

Subject: Request for Public Comments Regarding Proposed Security Enhancements at Palisades Dam

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is asking for your assistance to help identify issues and concerns associated with proposed interim security enhancements at Palisades Dam. Reclamation will use this information to analyze the environmental impacts of the project in an Environmental Assessment as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, Reclamation conducted in-depth evaluations of potential vulnerabilities at certain facilities, including Palisades Dam. These evaluations determined that potential vulnerabilities existed at the dam and that additional security enhancements were warranted. The proposed security measures include raising the dam crest, widening the dam crest, placing a water crossing just downstream of the dam and as an interim alternative place a 10-foot-wide median barrier on the existing road that crosses the crest of the dam. This barrier would prevent vehicle access to the middle section of the dam crest but would allow for continued two-way traffic across the dam. Disruption to traffic crossing the dam during potential construction under the dam crest alternatives would be minimal.

Reclamation has determined that an Environmental Assessment is required under NEPA in order to undertake this action. The Environmental Assessment will evaluate the impacts of the proposed action on the human and natural environments. This analysis, together with input from the public, will assist in making a final decision on the breath of the security measures. It is anticipated that the Draft Environmental Assessment will be distributed for public review and comment in the spring of 2010.

Reclamation is evaluating the potential impacts of these proposed safety enhancements, and we need your input. Also, in order to identify issues and concerns, a public meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2009, at the Swan Valley School Gymnasium, located at 3389 Highway 26 in Swan Valley, Idaho. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:00 p.m.

Please help us identify important issues and concerns of the public, by sending your written comments by November 9th to: Mr. Chris Ketchum, Assistant Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Snake Field Office, 1359 Hansen Avenue, Burley, ID 83318-1821. For questions concerning the environmental process, please contact Mr. Ryan Newman, Natural Resource Specialist at 208-678-0461 extension 38, or via e-mail at palisadescomments@usbr.gov.

Additional information on the project, including the proposed action, can be found on Reclamation's Pacific Northwest Region's website:
http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/srao_misc/security/.

As part of this proposed action, we are also updating our mailing list. Please complete and return the form below to Ryan Newman at the address listed above or notify us via the above comment e-mail address if you wish to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment. We will assume you do not wish to be on the mailing list if we do not receive notification.

Sincerely,



Chris Ketchum
Assistant Area Manager

Cut along this line

Please keep my name on the mailing list for the Palisades Dam Security Enhancement Project.

Please change my address on your mailing list to:

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code