

October 18, 2012

### **Telephone Comment on Draft AVC EIS from Richard Jensen**

In case Mr. Jensen does not send a written comment, this is a record of his verbal comment.

On October 18, 2012, Mr. Richard Jensen, Fowler, Colorado, called me regarding the Draft AVC EIS. Mr. Jensen was concerned about alignment of the alternatives and effects on irrigated agriculture. I directed him to the [www.usbr.gov/avceis](http://www.usbr.gov/avceis) website for more detailed information on the alternatives and explained that at this level of 10% engineering design, alignments were corridors rather than exact locations.

He said that he would look at the engineering report on the website and asked about the process of picking an alternative. I explained the Principles and Guidelines benefit/cost analysis, the steps in identifying a preferred alternative, and the selection of an alternative in the Record of Decision. He wanted to know who the selecting official is, and I responded that Mike Ryan, Regional Director of the Great Plains Region was the decision maker for this proposed project.

Mr. Jensen asked if we had taken into account the effects of the proposed project on irrigated agriculture. He explained that he and other farmers level their fields and use furrow irrigation. Any disruption to the soils takes years to settle and can adversely affect an irrigated field. Considering construction of a pipeline through an irrigated field may not cause a temporary, short-term impact and should be regarded as long-term.

He asked if we had seen a study that he had done for the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) regarding expansion of Highway 50 that evaluated the impacts one of their alternatives on irrigated agriculture. I told him that we had been working closely with CDOT and were using data from their programmatic EIS, but I was not familiar with the study he had done. I asked him to send us a written comment and send us a copy of that report.

He said that he would do so and wondered why he should send comments to someone in North Dakota. I explained my role as team leader and said that most of our team members are located in Colorado.

Signe Snortland  
Team Leader  
AVC EIS