



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, DC 20240



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96-00000
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MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioner
Attn: 91-10000, 92-00000, 94-00000, 94-30000, 96-00000
Denver Office
Attn: 84-20000, 84-40000, 84-50000, 84-60000
Regional Directors
Attn: PN-1000, MP-100, LC-1000, UC-100, GP-1000

From: William E. Rinne *William E. Rinne* SEP 1 2006
Acting Commissioner

Subject: Design Estimate Construction (DEC) Position and Review Process

The following information is to provide clarification on how the recently created DEC position and review process is intended to be implemented. Based upon this information, directives and standards will soon be issued to provide additional clarity.

DEC Position

The duties of the DEC portion of the DEC/SOD position are limited to the independent review and evaluation of engineering designs, cost estimates, and construction costs.

Scope of the DEC Review Process

The DEC review process will be applied to engineering designs, cost estimates, and construction costs, including compliance with applicable Reclamation policies and directives and standards for projects whose total costs exceed \$10 million. These will be conducted on designs and estimates that are considered to be at least at the feasibility level. Also included are projects designed at the pre-feasibility level if they are going to be the subject of a report which is going to be publicly released or provided to Congress and if it is reasonably likely that the report will be politically sensitive or controversial, or it will be used by project proponents to seek Congressional authorizations or appropriations. In addition, the Dam Safety Program already includes a comprehensive decision making process and extensive independent review process that will be enhanced to include a review of cost estimates and related modification report project justifications. Therefore, dam safety projects will not require a separate DEC review and are given a waiver from the DEC process. The dam safety policies will be modified as appropriate to incorporate these enhancements.

Decisionmaking on DEC Review Recommendations

The following process will be utilized for DEC decisionmaking:

1. The DEC Manager will formally transmit the teams' final independent review reports to the responsible Regional Director and the Director, Technical Resources. It is recognized that some or all of these reports will have addressed matters in addition to engineering designs, cost estimates, and construction costs (e.g., economic analyses and justification).
2. The Regional Director and the Director, Technical Services, will collaborate to reach a mutual decision as to which findings and recommendations in a DEC report regarding engineering designs, cost estimates, and construction costs will be accepted and which will not. They will document their conclusions and decisions, and the reasoning therefore, in writing in a jointly signed document which will be formally transmitted to the Deputy Commissioner for Operations for information. This will conclude the process.
3. If the Regional Director and the Director, Technical Resources, are not in agreement in this regard, they will elevate the matter to the Deputy Commissioner for Operations for a final decision. This final decision is to be documented in writing. This will conclude the process.

It is anticipated that as this position and process are put in place, adjustments may need to be made. The lead making any adjustments will be the DEC Manager and Director of Technical Resources with appropriate coordination with other Reclamation directors and managers.

cc: 96-400000, 96-42000
86-62000 (B. Moore), 86-68000 (M. Gabaldon)