

## **MINIDOKA DAM SPILLWAY REPLACEMENT EIS**

Minidoka Project

### **Scoping Meetings**

December 2008

Reclamation intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement. Reclamation is requesting early public comment and agency input to help identify significant issues or other alternatives to be addressed in the EIS. Information obtained during the scoping period (November 12-December 19, 2008) will help in developing information to be included in the EIS. A draft EIS is expected to be provided to the public for review by winter, 2009 followed by opportunities to provide written and oral comments. The final EIS is scheduled for completion in winter, 2010. A Record of Decision, describing which alternative is selected for implementation, and the rationale for its selection, would then be issued following a 30-day waiting period. Additional information about the project is available at Reclamation's website:

<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/eis/minidokadam/index.html>

### **PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS**

Reclamation is hosting two public meetings to obtain your input about the project. During these meetings, the current alternatives being considered will be described and staff will be available to answer questions. You will also be given an opportunity to identify issues and concerns associated with the current alternatives and to identify other potential alternatives.

#### **SCOPING MEETING DETAILS**

**Wednesday, December 3, 2008**

Red Lion Hotel  
475 River Park Way  
Idaho Falls, ID

**Thursday, December 4, 2008**

Burley Best Western Inn  
800 North Overland Avenue  
Burley, ID

Both meetings are from 6 – 9 p.m.

The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities. If you need other accommodations or auxiliary aids, please contact Allyn Meuleman 208 -383 -2258 before November 24th, 2008.

## **PURPOSE AND NEED**

The purpose of the proposed spillway replacement action is to prevent a structural failure of the Minidoka Dam spillway and associated structures. Minidoka Dam impounds Lake Walcott and is a feature of Reclamation's Minidoka Project. They are located on the main stem Snake River about 18 miles northeast from the city of Burley, Idaho within the Minidoka Wildlife Refuge. After over 103 years of continued use, the over 2,000 feet-long concrete spillway at the Minidoka Dam has reached the end of its functional lifespan. The concrete that forms the spillway crest and the piers and-stoplog structure shows extensive visible deterioration at numerous locations. In addition, the potential for ice damage to the stoplog piers requires that reservoir water levels be dropped each winter. The headgate structures at the North Side Canal and South Side Canal also show serious concrete deterioration similar to that seen along the spillway. The current condition of the Minidoka Dam spillway and headgate structures present increasingly difficult reliability and maintenance problems. If structural problems are not corrected, there is potential of partial or complete failure of the spillway and headgates. If these failures occur, Reclamation may not be able to meet contractual obligations for water delivery, power generation, and commitments to deliver flow augmentation water under the Nez Perce Settlement Agreement and the Endangered Species Act.

## **PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES**

Reclamation is currently investigating the alternatives identified below.

- No Action
- Total replacement of the spillway and headgate structures
- Replacement of just the spillway

## **YOUR FEEDBACK REQUESTED**

We want to hear your thoughts about the issues and concerns associated with the proposed alternatives. Please attend one of the scoping meetings scheduled in December 2008 to provide input. If you cannot attend one of our public scoping meetings, please submit your comments using the enclosed comment form and return it to us by December 19, 2008.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information about the project, please contact:

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