

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement Project Environmental Impact Statement

Minidoka Project
Burley, ID



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Region
Snake River Area Office

August, 2009

Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

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SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

MINIDOKA DAM SPILLWAY REPLACEMENT

The Proposed Project

The Bureau of Reclamation is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement project. The purpose of the project is to prevent a structural failure of the Minidoka Dam spillway and associated structures. Alternatives currently being considered are No Action as required under NEPA, total replacement of the spillway and headgate structures, or replacement of just the spillway.

The purpose of this summary report is to provide a summary of the major comments and issues received as part of the scoping process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Background

Minidoka Dam impounds Lake Walcott and is a feature of Reclamation's Minidoka Project. It is located on the main stem Snake River about 18 miles northeast from the city of Burley, ID within the Minidoka Wildlife Refuge. After over 103 years of continued use, the over 2000 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 of the pier-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 conditions 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 Reclamation's commitments to deliver flow augmentation water under the Nez Perce Settlement Agreement and the Endangered Species Act.

A related action currently being studied is a structural raise (to be determined) of Minidoka Dam to accommodate a 5-foot raise in the Reservoir Water Surface (RWS) elevation. The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) is funding a special study that explores the feasibility and costs associated with this action. The purpose of the dam raise is to increase the storage capacity of Lake Walcott by approximately 50,000 acre-feet as one element of efforts to address water supply concerns in the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer area. The IWRB anticipates the additional supplies of stored water could be used to help address surface and groundwater demands by implementing improvement measures being considered by the State. If the IWRB decides to pursue this action, a supplemental EIS will be developed to evaluate impacts.

Scoping Process

Scoping is an essential part of public involvement. Public involvement is a process for including interested and affected individuals, organizations, and local, state and federal agencies in the decision making process. Scoping is a term used for the process of seeking comments and public information to identify significant issues related to a proposal.

The scoping process for this project was initiated on November 13, 2008 when a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS and to conduct public scoping meetings was published in the *Federal Register*. A scoping letter discussing the project and notifying the public of the scoping meetings was sent to a mailing list of 106 individuals, organizations, governmental agencies, and congressional delegates. A similar letter was sent to 28 tribal governments.

Initially, two public scoping meetings were held. The first meeting was held in Idaho Falls, Idaho on December 3, 2008, the second was held in Burley, Idaho on December 4, 2008. Sixteen people in total attended the scoping meetings. At the public meetings, Reclamation presented the proposed alternatives, provided an overview of the NEPA process, and provided opportunities for the public to identify issues and concerns associated with the proposed project. In addition to comments received at the scoping meetings, written comments were accepted through December 19, 2008. At the Shoshone Bannock Tribe's request, a public meeting was held from 6-8 p.m. on the Shoshone-Bannock Reservation on April 7, 2009. One member of the public attended the meeting.

Five letters of comment were received. Comments ranged from brief comments and questions to detailed statements. Each comment relevant to the project has been summarized under an issue category, and is presented in this document. Comments received during the scoping process dealing with issues, concerns, and potential impacts will be considered by Reclamation in the preparation of the Draft EIS. Additional issues will also be considered as they arise.

The comments received will be used to assist in the following:

1. Identifying the significant issues relevant to the proposed action.
2. Identifying those elements of the environment that could be affected by the proposed action.
3. Formulating new or modifying current alternatives for the proposed action.

The Notice of Intent, news release, scoping letter, maps, and meeting handouts are attached to this document.

Summary of Comments and Issues

This section identifies the major comments and issues provided to Reclamation as part of the scoping process.

1. Elimination of Winter Drawdown

- Adverse effects to downstream vegetation and waterfowl.
- Potential for Eurasian milfoil to invade Lake Walcott at a higher water elevation.

2. Alternatives

- What is the purpose of the spillway?
- When the new spillway is being built will the silt in front of the old spillway be cleaned out?
- What is the timeframe for construction?
- After the replacement goes in, will the old one be removed?
- Will the water be drawn down?

3. Economic impact to the Minidoka Irrigation District

4. Fish Entrainment in canal diversions, hydroelectric generators, and the spillway

- Include an analysis of alternatives to prevent canal entrainment including screening, electrical barriers, strobes, and/or bypass structures.
- What fish species are in Lake Walcott?

5. Spillway Fishery below Minidoka Dam

- Need to maintain the sport fishery for rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, and other species.
- Current flows in the spillway represent the minimal discharge needed to sustain basic aquatic life in this area particularly during the summer months.
- The ability to stabilize flows below the spillway has the potential to increase the productivity of the fishery. Conversely, any loss, modification, or degradation of flows has the potential to affect a locally popular fishery.
- Include an analysis of alternatives to maintain or improve aquatic resource conditions and the sport fishery.

6. Wetland Habitat below Minidoka Dam Spillway

- Include an analysis of alternatives to maintain, improve, or mitigate impacts to wetland habitats below Minidoka spillway.

7. Spillway Flows

- Partial mitigation for the impacts resulting from the replacement of the powerplant requires that Reclamation release certain flows during the irrigation season.
- Include an analysis of alternatives to maintain, improve, or mitigate flows below the Minidoka spillway.

8. Lake Walcott Water Levels

- Annual winter drawdown of the reservoir negatively affects a number of aquatic species including trout and smallmouth bass.
- Benefits to fish resources as a result of water level stabilization, with options for periodic drawdown to manage wetland/aquatic vegetation, should be included in the analysis.

9. Endangered Species Act

- Yellow-billed cuckoo (candidate species)
- Desert valvata (endangered species)
- What Threatened and Endangered species are in the reservoir or below it?
- Are there land locked Sturgeon?

10. Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- One invertebrate, one amphibian, variety of birds.

11. Previous mitigation commitments

- Need to ensure that commitments for previous actions at the Minidoka Project have been fulfilled and /or are addressed in the spillway replacement analysis.

12. Water resources impacts

- Water quality degradation.

13. Habitat, Vegetation, and Wildlife

- Habitat for various species may be disturbed during construction.
- Construction activities will disturb vegetation which may spread noxious weeds and exotic (non-indigenous) plants.
- What is the distance between American Falls and the Minidoka spillway? Will the distance and amount of water affect any species along that distance?

14. Wetlands and riparian areas

- Clean Water Act Section 404 permit.

15. Air quality

- Potential impacts from construction activities.

16. Climate change

- Consider how climate change might affect resources as well as how greenhouse gas emissions from the project may affect climate change.

17. Cumulative effects

- Should clearly identify the resources that may be cumulatively impacted, the time over which impacts are going to occur, and the geographic area that will be impacted.

18. Environmental Justice

- Determine if environmental justice populations (minority and low-income) occur within the geographic scope of the project.
- Address the potential for disproportionate adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations, and the approaches used to foster public participation by these populations.

19. Historic and cultural resources

- Discuss potential impacts to historic and cultural resources, and treaty rights (ITA's) and describe coordination with affected tribal governments.
- Do we need to have monitors out during the project construction?
- The area of Lake Walcott was once in the Shoshone-Bannock Treaty, but the treaty was never ratified and they lost them, this area is very important to the Tribes
- There is an incredible amount of looting when water goes down at reservoir. If the water is drawn down need to ensure protection of these sites and the Tribes would like to have a monitor at for the reservoir.

20. Monitoring

- Include implementation and effectiveness monitoring.

22. Miscellaneous

- Need to make sure that equipment is cleaned prior to entering area to ensure there are no epidemics of invasive species like mussels or other aquatic travelers.
- Why are there no screens to prevent sturgeon from going down the canals?
- There are a lot of areas that are not disturbed and every effort should be taken to protect these areas.

23. Outside Scope of Project

- Have we taken into consideration the coal plant that is going to be built near American falls?
- The coal plant could deposit up to 10% of its debris per year, this should be addressed.

- What about the Simplot chemicals, have any tests occurred to test for these polluting the water at Lake Walcott?
- Has the Snake River aquifer been taken into consideration and effects from pollution or reservoir change been incorporated into that?
- Spillway Replacement alternatives are premature since a study of a dam raise is currently underway.
- Increase capacity of site (raise the dam) as part of the spillway project.
- Delay to Spillway Replacement if dam raise is pursued.
- Does sediment deposition affect carrying capacity?

Tribal Government to Federal Government Consultation and Scoping of Issues

A meeting was held April 7th, 2009 with the Shoshone-Bannock Fort Hall Business Council from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by Chairman, Vice Chairman, and four Council members. Reclamation employees included the Assistant Area Manager, Activity Manager and the Native American Affairs Coordinator. Discussion ranged from brief comments and questions to detailed statements. They are summarized within the categories identified above. No written comments were received. In addition, the following comments, although not considered scoping issues, are comments considered as part of the Tribal Government to Federal Government Consultation.

- The council looks for employment opportunities for Tribal members, the economy is even worse on the Reservation, they would like Reclamation to add something to the contract so that any sub-contracting or hiring of employees would have native preference, work with the TERO office to do this.
- Tribes want to be involved from day one, not when the project is near completion.
- When the construction starts will they be able to hire Tribal folks?

Attachments

Notice of Intent

Dated: November 6, 2008.

Randall B. Luthi,
Director, Minerals Management Service.
[FR Doc. E8-26995 Filed 11-12-08; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-MR-C

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement; Minidoka County, ID

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an
Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement. Alternatives currently being considered are No Action as required under NEPA, total replacement of the spillway and headgate structures, or replacement of just the spillway.

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 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.

DATES: Scoping meetings will be held on the following dates and times:

- *Idaho Falls, ID: December 3, 2008:* Open House Meeting 6 pm to 9 pm.
- *Burley, ID: December 4, 2008:* Open House Meeting 6 pm to 9 pm.

Written comments will be accepted through December 19, 2008 for inclusion in the scoping summary document. Please direct requests for sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired or other auxiliary aids, to Ms. Allyn Meuleman by November 24, 2008, at the telephone or fax numbers listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** section of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests to be added to the mailing list may be submitted to Bureau of Reclamation, Snake River Area Office, Attention: Allyn Meuleman, Activity Manager, 230

Collins Road, Boise, ID 83702-4520.

Comments may also be submitted electronically to minidoka_dam_eis@pn.usbr.gov.

The scoping meetings will be held at the following locations which are physically accessible to people with disabilities.

- Red Lion Hotel, 475 River Park Way, Idaho Falls, ID 83402
- Burley Best Western Inn, 800 North Overland Avenue, Burley, ID 83318

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Allyn Meuleman, (208) 383-2258, fax: (208) 383-2237 for additional information. Information on this project can also be found at: <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/eis/minidokadam/index.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 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, ID within the Minidoka Wildlife Refuge. After over 103 years of continued use, the over 2000 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 of the pier-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 conditions 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 Reclamation's commitments to deliver flow augmentation water under the Nez Perce Settlement Agreement and the Endangered Species Act.

A related action which may be considered is a structural raise (to be determined) of Minidoka Dam to accommodate a 5-foot raise in the Reservoir Water Surface (RWS) elevation. The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) is funding a special study that explores the feasibility and costs

associated with this action. The purpose of the dam raise is to increase the storage capacity of Lake Walcott by approximately 50,000 acre-feet as one element of efforts to address water supply concerns in the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer area. The IWRB anticipates the additional supplies of stored water could be used to help address surface and groundwater demands by implementing improvement measures being considered by the State. If the IWRB decides to pursue this action, a supplemental EIS will be developed to evaluate impacts.

Public Involvement

Reclamation will conduct public scoping meetings to solicit input on the alternatives developed to address replacement of the Minidoka Dam Spillway and associated structures and the impacts associated with those alternatives. Reclamation will summarize comments received during the scoping meetings and written comments received during the scoping period, identified under **DATES**, into a scoping summary document which will be made available to those who have provided comments. It will also be available to others upon request and will be posted on the Web site listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**.

If you wish to comment, you may provide your comments as indicated under the **ADDRESSES** section. Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personal identifying information) may be made publicly available at any time. 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.

J. William McDonald,

Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region.

[FR Doc. E8-26990 Filed 11-12-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MN-P

News Releases

Pacific Northwest Region
Boise, Idaho

Media Contact:

John Redding, 208-378-5012
jredding@pn.usbr.gov

Allyn Meuleman, 208-383-2258
ameuleman@pn.usbr.gov

Released On: November 21, 2008

Reclamation Hosts Public Meetings for Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement EIS

The Bureau of Reclamation will hold two public scoping meetings for the proposed Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement aimed at preventing possible structural failure of the dam's spillway and associated structures. Minidoka Dam is located on the Snake River about 18 miles northeast of Burley, Idaho.

The scoping meetings will give the public the opportunity to identify issues and concerns associated with the currently proposed alternatives, and to identify other potential alternatives that could be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Alternatives currently being considered are No Action as required under National Environmental Policy Act, total replacement of the spillway and headgate structures, or replacement of just the spillway. Scoping meetings will be held:

December 3, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Red Lion Hotel 475 River Park Way, Idaho Falls, ID

December 4, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Burley Best Western Inn 800 North Overland Avenue, Burley, ID

In addition to comments received at the scoping meetings, written comments will be accepted through December 19, and may be submitted to Bureau of Reclamation, Snake River Area Office, Attention: Allyn Meuleman, Activity Manager, 230 Collins Road, Boise, ID 83702, or at 208-383-2258. Comments may also be submitted electronically to minidoka_dam_eis@pn.usbr.gov. The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities.

Minidoka Dam was constructed in 1906 by Reclamation as part of the Minidoka Project. The dam is operated as one of five storage facilities constructed on the Snake and Henrys Fork rivers. The multi-purpose project provides irrigation, power production, flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.

For more information about the project, please go to:
<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/eis/minidokadam/index.html>



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

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Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits. Visit our website at www.usbr.gov.

Relevant Links:

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

News Release

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Pacific Northwest Region
Boise, Idaho

Media Contact:

David Walsh, 208-378-5026
dwalsh@pn.usbr.gov

Allyn Meuleman, 208-383-2258
ameuleman@pn.usbr.gov

Released On: April 02, 2009

Reclamation Hosts Public Meeting for Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement EIS

The Bureau of Reclamation will hold a public scoping meeting for the proposed Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement project on April 7 in Fort Hall, Idaho. The spillway on the 103 year-old dam has been targeted for replacement and has reached the end of its functional lifespan.

The dam, located on the Snake River about 18 miles northeast of Burley, Idaho, is a major feature of Reclamation's Minidoka Project.

The scoping meeting will be an opportunity for the public to identify issues and concerns associated with the currently proposed alternatives, and to identify other potential alternatives that could be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Alternatives currently being considered are: No Action as required under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), total replacement of the spillway and headgate structures, or replacement of just the spillway.

The April 7 scoping meeting will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Office, Business Council Conference Room, Pima Drive, Fort Hall, Idaho. The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities.

In addition to comments received at the scoping meetings, written comments will be accepted through April 30, 2009, and may be submitted to Bureau of Reclamation, Snake River Area Office, Attention: Allyn Meuleman, Activity Manager, 230 Collins Road, Boise ID 83702-4520 or at (208) 383-2258. Comments may also be submitted by email at: minidoka_dam_eis@pn.usbr.gov.

Minidoka Dam was completed in 1906 and is operated as one of six storage facilities on the Snake and Henry's Fork rivers. The multi-purpose project provides irrigation, power production, flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.

For more information about the project, please go to:
<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/eis/minidokadam/index.html>



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Scoping Letter

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 foot-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:

Allyn Meuleman, Activity Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
230 Collins Road
Boise, Idaho 83712
208-383-2258 (telephone)
208-383-2275 (fax)
minidoka_dam_eis@pn.usbr.gov

Maps

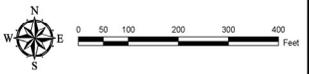


LAKE
WALCOTT

Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement - EIS Alternatives -

EIS Alternatives

-  A: No Action (Existing)
-  B: Total replacement of the spillway and Northside and Southside headgate structures.
-  C: Replacement of just the spillway.



Neither the authors, Reclamation, or any other party involved in preparing the material and data displayed here warrant or represent that the information is in every respect complete and accurate, and are not held responsible for errors or omissions.

Aerial image acquired by Reclamation in 2000

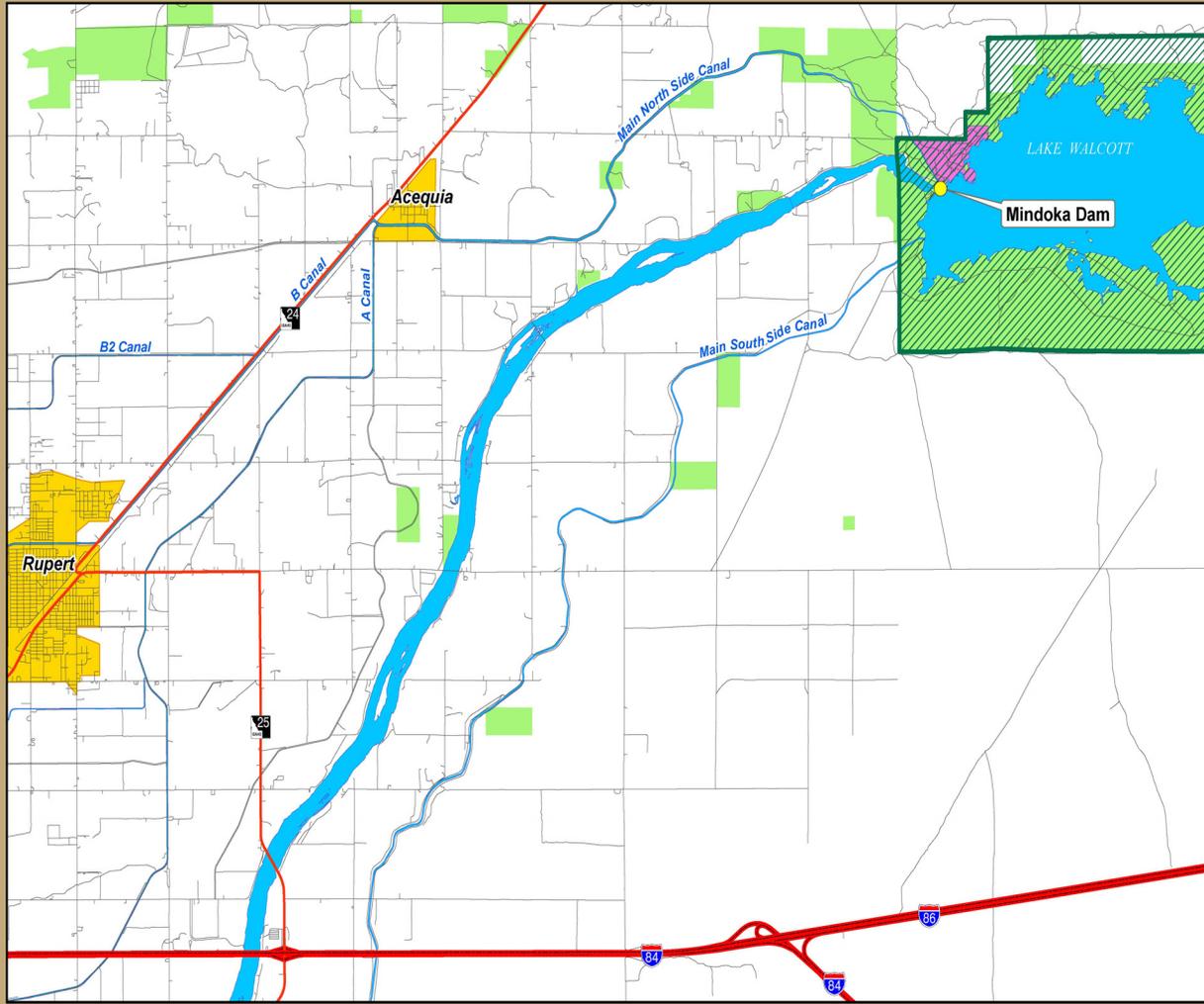
Filename: MDSR_ForEIS_100708.mxd
Drawn by: G. Young/J. Jones Date: Nov. 20, 2008



Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement - EIS Alternative B -

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Structures (Alt. B) New Access Roads (Alt. B) Existing Structures To Be Removed 	
<p>Neither the authors, Reclamation, or any other party involved in preparing the material and data displayed here warrant or represent that the information is in every respect complete and accurate, and are not held responsible for errors or omissions.</p> <p>Filename: MDSR_ForEIS_1007082.mxd Drawn by: G. Young/J. Jones Date: Nov. 21, 2008</p>	

Aerial image acquired by Reclamation in 2000



Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement Project Area

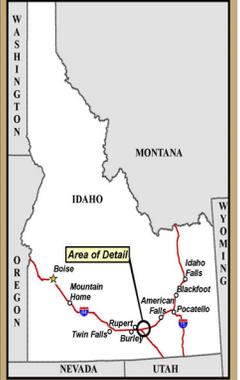


- Reclamation Lands
- Lake Walcott State Park
- ▨ Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge
- Cities
- ▬ Interstate
- ▬ Highway
- ▬ Roads



Neither the authors, Reclamation, or any other party involved in preparing the material and data displayed here warrant or represent that the information is in every respect complete and accurate, and are not held responsible for errors or omissions.

Filename: MDSR_ForEIS_1007093.mxd
 Drawn by: G. Young/J. Jones Date: Nov. 17, 2008



Meeting Handouts

MINIDOKA DAM SPILLWAY REPLACEMENT

Minidoka Project

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

December 2008

The National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was enacted into law on January 1, 1969. It requires Federal agencies to evaluate and consider environmental factors during decision making and to seek input to these evaluations from state and local agencies, Tribal Governments, organizations, and the public. Agencies also must consider and evaluate a range of alternatives that meet the purpose and need of the proposed action.

When a Federal action is determined likely to significantly affect the quality of the human environment, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is prepared. The EIS provides decision-makers with important information on the types of issues and concerns identified by the public, the expected environmental consequences of all alternatives, and potential mitigation measures.

Terms Commonly Associated with an EIS

- ❖ **Federal Action** – This is what triggers the requirement for NEPA compliance. It can be an action that the Federal agency will take, or a decision that must be made, that may significantly impact the human environment.
- ❖ **Scoping** – The process by which input from the public, agencies, and organizations is sought to help define the alternatives, issues, and impacts that should be addressed in the EIS.
- ❖ **Purpose and Need** – The statement of purpose and need identifies the underlying reasons why an action is needed.
- ❖ **Proposed Action** – This is the action initially identified to meet the identified purpose and need for action.
- ❖ **Alternatives** – These are reasonable actions that meet the identified purpose and need of the proposed action.
- ❖ **Federal Preferred Alternative** – This is the alternative that the Federal agency proposes to implement. If one has been identified, it will be described in the Draft EIS. A Preferred Alternative must be identified in the Final EIS.

- ❖ **No Action Alternative** – This is considered to be the most likely future without implementation of the proposed action or other alternative.
- ❖ **Alternatives Considered but Eliminated From Further Study** – These are other alternatives considered, but not found to be technically feasible or to reasonably meet the purpose and need of the proposed action.
- ❖ **Record of Decision** – This document summarizes the alternatives considered in the EIS and identifies the agency’s decision along with the basis for that decision.

NEPA as an Umbrella for Other Environmental Laws

Compliance with related environmental laws, rules, regulations, and executive and secretarial orders is integrated into the NEPA process and documented in the EIS. However, these other laws, regulations and Executive and Secretarial Orders have their own specific compliance requirements separate from NEPA. A partial list of other major environmental laws, regulations, and Executive and Secretarial Orders requiring compliance includes:

Endangered Species Act
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
National Historic Preservation Act
Clean Water Act
Environmental Justice Executive Order
Sacred Sites Executive Order
Indian Trust Assets Secretarial Order

FOR MORE INFORMATION

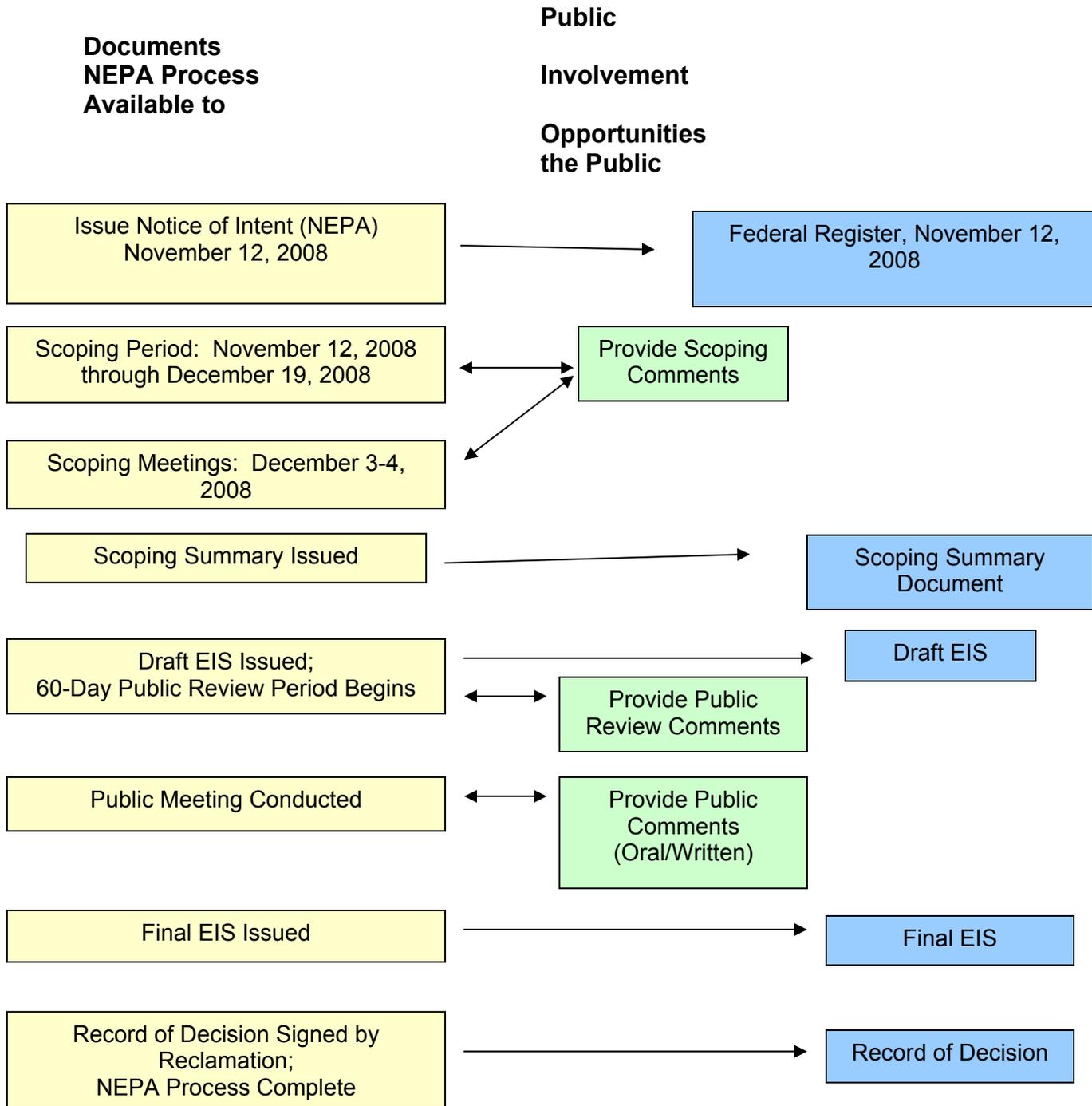
EIS Website:

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

Activity Manager: Allyn Meuleman
Bureau of Reclamation
230 Collins Road
Boise, Idaho 83702-4520

208-383-2258
208-383-2237 FAX
Minidoka_dam_eis@pn.usbr.gov

**MINIDOKA DAM SPILLWAY REPLACEMENT
Minidoka Project
NEPA PROCESS
December 2008**



Contact: Allyn Meuleman, Activity Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 208-383-2258

***Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement
Minidoka Project***

***Fort Hall, Idaho
April 7, 2008***

AGENDA

6:00 p.m. Doors open

6:15 p.m. Welcome

*Chris Ketchum, Assistant Area Manager, Reclamation
Hap Boyer, Natural Resource Manager, Reclamation*

PowerPoint Presentation by Reclamation

Allyn Meuleman, Activity Manager, Reclamation

Identification of Issues and Concerns

Take this opportunity to provide written comments about any issues or concerns you have about the impacts associated with the alternatives currently proposed or identify other alternatives that address the project's purpose and need.

Comment categories include:

- ***Historic Properties/Cultural Resources***
- ***Recreation***
- ***Water Resources and Reservoir operations***
- ***Water quality***
- ***Fish and Wildlife***
- ***Threatened and Endangered Species***
- ***Vegetation/Wetlands***
- ***Economics***
- ***Other Issues and Concerns***
- ***Alternatives***

This is also an opportunity to review maps and other information and have one-on-one discussions with technical team members and managers.

Review and Wrap-Up

8:00 p.m. Adjourn

If you have additional comments, please turn in your comment form before you leave.

**Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement
Minidoka Project**

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

**Idaho Falls, Idaho
December 3, 2008**

AGENDA

6:00 p.m. Doors open

6:15 p.m. Welcome

Chris Ketchum, Activity Manager, Reclamation

PowerPoint Presentation by Reclamation

Allyn Meuleman, Activity Manager

Lola Abshire, Environmental Specialist

Keith Brooks, Civil Engineer

Identification of Issues and Concerns

Take this opportunity to provide written comments about any issues or concerns you have about the impacts associated with the alternatives currently proposed or identify other alternatives that address the project's purpose and need. Post-its are provided for you to record your comments and then place them on the appropriate comment board.

Comment board categories include:

- ***Historic Properties/Cultural Resources***
- ***Recreation***
- ***Water Resources and Reservoir operations***
- ***Water quality***
- ***Fish and Wildlife***
- ***Threatened and Endangered Species***
- ***Vegetation/Wetlands***
- ***Economics***
- ***Other Issues and Concerns***
- ***Alternatives***

This is also an opportunity to review maps and other information and have one-on-one discussions with technical team members and managers.

Review and Wrap-Up

9:00 p.m. Adjourn

If you have additional comments, please turn in your comment form before you leave.

***Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement
Minidoka Project***

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

***Burley, Idaho
December 4, 2008***

AGENDA

6:00 p.m. Doors open

6:15 p.m. Welcome

Chris Ketchum, Assistant Area Manager, Reclamation

PowerPoint Presentation by Reclamation

Allyn Meuleman, Activity Manager

Lola Abshire, Environmental Specialist

Keith Brooks, Civil Engineer

Identification of Issues and Concerns

Take this opportunity to provide written comments about any issues or concerns you have about the impacts associated with the alternatives currently proposed or identify other alternatives that address the project's purpose and need. Post-its are provided for you to record your comments and then place them on the appropriate comment board.

Comment board categories include:

- ***Historic Properties/Cultural Resources***
- ***Recreation***
- ***Water Resources and Reservoir operations***
- ***Water quality***
- ***Fish and Wildlife***
- ***Threatened and Endangered Species***
- ***Vegetation/Wetlands***
- ***Economics***
- ***Other Issues and Concerns***
- ***Alternatives***

This is also an opportunity to review maps and other information and have one-on-one discussions with technical team members and managers.

Review and Wrap-Up

9:00 p.m. Adjourn

If you have additional comments, please turn in your comment form before you leave.

COMMENT FORM
Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement

Name (please print legibly):	
Organization:	
Mailing Address:	
City, State, and Zip Code:	
Telephone (optional):	E-mail (optional):

If you received this form in the mail or attended a public scoping meeting you will be placed on our mailing list.

I want my name removed from this mailing list.

Please note: Before including your name, address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personal identifying information) may be made publicly available at any time. 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.

My comments on the Minidoka Dam Spillway Replacement are:

(Use back of sheet or additional sheets as necessary)

Please mail, fax, or email your comments before December 19, 2008, to: Allyn Meuleman, Activity Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 230 Collins Road, Boise, ID 83702-4520; fax: (208) 383-2237; email: Minidoka_dam_eis@pn.usbr.gov

