



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Region

Provo Area Office

302 East 1860 South

Provo, UT 84606-7317

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PRO-774
ENV-6.00

JUN 30 2015

Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) – Upper High Creek Canal Enclosure and Hydropower Development Project in Cache County, Utah

Dear Interested Persons:

In compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Bureau of Reclamation Provo Area Office has completed the Draft EA. The Draft EA fulfills the requirements of NEPA, as well as the Council on Environmental Quality and Department of the Interior regulations implementing NEPA. The Draft EA states the action that will be implemented and describes the effects of the Proposed Action.

The Draft EA was prepared to examine the potential environmental impacts of the Upper High Creek Canal Enclosure and Hydropower Development Project, proposed by the Richmond Irrigation Company. If approved, 8.3 miles of the Upper High Creek Canal would be piped and two small hydropower plants would be installed, with a combined capacity of 300 kilowatts.

The purposes of the project are to enclose the Upper High Creek Canal; conserve approximately 4,800 acre-feet of water annually; produce a significant amount of hydropower; increase water delivery to an environmentally sensitive area; and integrate water conservation and clean energy production.

The Draft EA analyzes the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives as required by regulations within NEPA. If potentially significant impacts to the human environment are identified, an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared. If no significant impacts are identified, Reclamation will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Reclamation invites interested parties to review and provide comments on the Draft EA. This letter begins the 30-day comment period. This letter is being sent to municipalities, organizations, agencies, and the public that have an interest in the Proposed Action.

Comments may be provided until July 27, 2015. Written comments should be addressed to Bureau of Reclamation, Attention: Mr. Peter Crookston, 302 East 1860 South, Provo, UT 84606-7317. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to pcrookston@usbr.gov.

The Draft EA is available on the internet at www.usbr.gov/uc/envdocs/index.html. If you prefer a CD or hard copy, they are available upon request by contacting Mr. Peter Crookston at 801-379-1152.

At the conclusion of the comment period, comments received on the Draft EA will be considered and incorporated, and if no further analysis is necessary, the EA will be finalized and a FONSI will be prepared.

Should you need additional information, please contact Peter Crookston at (801) 379-1152.

Sincerely,

for



Wayne G. Pullan
Area Manager