



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Region
Provo Area Office
302 East 1860 South
Provo, Utah 84606-7317

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PRO-773
ENV-6.00

DEC 14 2007

To Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

Subject: Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the A.V. Watkins Dam Safety of Dams Modification

The Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the A.V. Watkins Dam Safety of Dams (SOD) Modification have been completed. This EA and FONSI can be viewed electronically at www.usbr.gov/uc/provo/index.html (look under the section "Current Focus" and click on the subject EA).

The EA describes the effects of the proposed SOD Modifications at A.V. Watkins Dam. The purpose of the proposed action is to repair safety deficiencies recently discovered in the dam in a cost effective and structurally feasible manner and to meet current safety standards without affecting the purposes of the Weber Basin Project.

A Draft EA (DEA) was sent for public review and comment on October 31, 2007. All comments received were carefully reviewed and considered in preparing the final EA (FEA). During this time new information affecting the characterization of alternatives described in the DEA was received. Under the No Action Alternative (Section 2.2 of the EA), the reservoir's maximum allowable water surface elevation was stated as 4214 feet above sea level. It is now known through test drilling and other analysis that this reservoir restriction elevation could be 2 feet lower at 4212 feet. Predicted conditions resulting from implementation of the revised No Action Alternative are not significantly different than stated in the DEA.

The reservoir restriction elevations described in the Proposed Action Alternative (Section 2.3 of the DEA) are also changed. The highest allowable water surface elevation of the reservoir during construction is dependent upon the length and location of the cutoff wall that will be determined in the final design and satisfactory performance of the dam based upon monitoring 24 hours per day, 7-days per week during construction. For the first option under this alternative, where the cutoff wall is constructed through the dam, the reservoir would be restricted to elevations between 4209 and 4212 feet; however, the reservoir could be allowed to rise to a maximum elevation of 4214 feet during spring runoff with satisfactory monitoring. The second option remains unchanged.

The length of the cutoff wall under the Proposed Action Alternative has been extended from approximately 20,000 feet to approximately 26,000 feet. The width of the cutoff wall has been changed from 2.0 feet to 2.5 feet. In addition, the 300 foot section of the dam embankment that

was damaged in November 2006 will be removed down to the foundation and reconstructed prior to the construction of the cutoff wall. Predicted conditions resulting from implementation of the revised Proposed Action Alternative are not significantly different than stated in the DEA.

If you have any questions, or would like a paper copy of these documents, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this environmental review process.

Sincerely,



*acting
for* Bruce C. Barrett
Area Manager