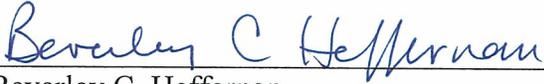


FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Echo Dam
Safety of Dams Modification
Weber River Project
Summit County, Utah**

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Region
Provo Area Office
Provo, Utah**

Recommended by:

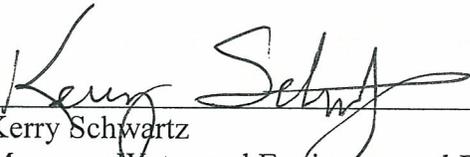


Beverley C. Heffernan
Chief, Environmental Group

9/11/09

Date

Concur:



Kerry Schwartz
Manager, Water and Environmental Resources Division

9/11/09

Date

Approved by:



Bruce C. Barrett
Area Manager, Provo Area Office

9/14/09

Date

FINDING

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that implementing the Proposed Action analyzed in the Echo Dam Safety of Dams Modification Final Environmental Assessment (EA) will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required. This decision was based on a thorough review of the EA and public comments received on the draft EA. This decision is in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Public Law 91-90), as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508).

DECISION

Reclamation has decided to implement the Proposed Action Alternative as described in the EA. This prescribes a modification fix for Echo Dam that will, to the extent possible, minimally affect normal operations, while protecting environmental aspects mentioned in Chapter 3 of the EA (i.e. recreation; water rights water resources; water quality; public safety, access, and transportation; visual quality; socioeconomics; cultural resources; paleontological resources; wetlands and vegetation, wildlife resources; threatened, endangered, and sensitive species).

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

A finding of no significant impact is based on the following:

1. The Proposed Action will have no significant effect on such unique characteristics as cultural resources, wilderness areas, wetlands, and riparian areas.
2. The environmental effects of the proposed action are neither controversial nor do they involve unique or unknown risks.
3. The proposed action would not adversely affect, species either currently listed or proposed for listing as candidate, endangered or threatened species, and will not affect designated critical habitat for these species.
4. The proposed action does not threaten to violate a Federal, state, or local law, or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

Reclamation has analyzed the environmental effects, public comments, and the alternatives in detail. Reclamation believes that the Proposed Action Alternative best meets the purpose and need described in the EA.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

In October 2007, Reclamation mailed 28 individual copies of the draft EA to the interested public for review and comment. Reclamation received two comment letters.

Reclamation completed a public scoping process prior to beginning preparation of this EA. Scoping letters were mailed on February 8, 2005 to approximately 28 agencies, organizations and individuals inviting comments on the analyses to be included in the EA. Two scoping comment letters were received and determined to be outside the scope of the EA, because the proposed action is limited to construction and does not affect or propose any changes to operations.

On July 2, 2009 draft copies of the EA were distributed to approximately 28 individuals, organizations and agencies for review and comment. After evaluating the comments received, Reclamation made several minor revisions to the EA. The project file in the Provo Area Office contains the comment letters as well as a complete record of all public involvement activities.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The expected environmental impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative are described in Chapter 3 of the EA. The environmental analysis in that document is based on the fact that work would occur within the dam primary jurisdiction zone and identified borrow areas. The environmental analysis focused on the resources mentioned above. The environmental analysis indicates that the impacts will be temporary, short term, and/or minor.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

Reclamation will carry out the environmental commitments associated with the proposed action, as described in Chapter 4 of the EA. Those commitments have been incorporated by reference into this decision, and completion of the commitments will be closely monitored by Reclamation. Monitoring will also ensure completion of any and all mitigation requirements in construction contract specifications, as appropriate.